

T/SDR/4/1/51

# GREEN WORLD

75p

AUTUMN 1995

No. 11



## WILL THEY THANK US FOR THIS?

**Our Planet  
has already been irreversibly contaminated  
with radioactive waste.**

**Unless we stop it, the nuclear industry threatens us all  
either through lethal contamination or total war.**

**There is no need to jeopardise our children's future;  
we can use safe renewable energy sources  
and have a viable non-nuclear defence policy.**



Take a stall at conference ... 10% early booking discount!

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- recycling products • recycled products • candles
- bicycles • clothing • crafts • green/alternative literature
- photography • any more ideas?

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WE ESPECIALLY WELCOME CAMPAIGNING ORGANISATIONS



## Green Party STALLS



### Green Party Autumn Conference Booking Form

11 - 15 October 1995 Floral Hall, Southport

#### Conference fees - Daily Rate

Your yearly income level	If booked before 15.9.95			If booked at Conference		
	Thur/Fri/Sat	Sun	All in	Thur/Fri/Sat	Sun	All in
under £10,000	5	3	15	6	3	20
£10K - 14,999	8	6	24	9	7	29
£15K - 19,999	12	9	36	14	10	43
£20K - 29,999	16	12	48	18	14	56
£30K - 39,999	20	15	60	23	17	71
over £40,000	25	19	75	29	22	89

#### Volunteers

If you would like to volunteer for one of the following please contact the relevant organiser straight away.

**CHAIRING** Jenny Jones, Tel: 0171 701 0055 after 1.9.95  
**CONFERENCE/FRINGE MEETINGS** Miriam Kennel, 20 Arlow Road, London N21 3JU. Tel: 0181 882 0955

**LOCAL TEAMS** Bernard Eckbury, Flat 4, 15 Brook Road, Fallowfield, Manchester M14 6UE. Tel: 0161 224 4188

**OUTSIDE SPEAKERS** Peter Merry, Tel: 0181 348 0294

**CONFERENCE OFFICE** Peg Alexander, 22 Adwick Place, Burley, Leeds LS4 2RA. Tel: 01532 754084

**ON THE DOOR** Daniel James, Martha Brett, Tel: 0181 807 5677 (urgent!)

**PRESS OFFICE** Penny Kemp, Gloversbridge, Grigg Lane, Headcorn, Ashford, Kent TN27 9LS. Tel: 01622 890601

**CRÈCHE** Sue Bradley, 40 Holcombe Green, Bath, Avon BA1 4HU. Tel: 01225 428929

**STALLS** Andy Stevenson, 32 Radford Road, Leamington Spa, Warwick. CV31 1LX. Tel: 01926 888752

**TIMETABLE** Pete Lang 01531 670 298

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Floor space is available for £2 per night. There may be a limited number of mattresses available, allocated on a first come first served basis, for £1 per night - payable upon registration. Floor space should be booked and paid for in advance on your booking form. All other accommodation needs to be booked by yourself directly with the establishment. If you would like free information lists of accommodation please indicate on this booking form which type you require.

#### Crèche Facilities

Free crèche will be provided during morning and afternoon Conference sessions. In addition we intend to offer supervised lunchtime children's table, evening quiet room and children's Saturday activities. To ensure adequate supervision it is essential that places are booked in advance as soon as possible, preferably before 15.9.95. Contact Sue Bradley on the number above.

#### Fringe Meetings

Please consider having a Fringe at Conference. For more information contact Miriam Kennel at the address above.

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (home) \_\_\_\_\_  
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Local Party \_\_\_\_\_

#### Days attending and fees payable

(see sliding scale of charges opposite)

Wednesday (from 6pm)		Floorspace	YES/NO
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SUB TOTAL	£ _____		
Plus floorspace	£ _____	@ £2 per night	
TOTAL	£ _____		

Cheque made payable to The Green Party enclosed YES/NO

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- ☐ I am able to offer \_\_\_\_\_ places in my car to and from Conference
- ☐ I would like a lift to and from conference and will contribute to the cost

#### Attendance status

- ☐ Local Party Representative ☐ Possible Local Party Representative
- ☐ Member ☐ Observer

#### I require the following information

- ☐ Second agenda

Accommodation lists of: ☐ Guest house/hotel

- ☐ Self catering ☐ Caravan/camping

Please send this booking form with your cheque made payable to **THE GREEN PARTY** to: **Miriam Kennel, 20 Arlow Road, London N21 3JU**

## GREEN WORLD

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For People and the Planet

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### EDITORIAL

One the main reasons I hear from people who are reluctant to join the Green Party is a belief that we are ineffective, and don't achieve anything. The truth, of course, is very different, but the problem is we are not good at self-publicity, and a hostile media will certainly not do it for us.

What are our achievements? As a persistent underlying electoral threat to the main parties, we put a lot of pressure on them to adopt Green ideas. We have seen many changes recently, in planning, transport, etc., which we can take much of the credit for.

At the local level, of the numerous of LETS schemes running, Green Party members were responsible for setting up a significant proportion. Likewise with many other co-operative local based initiatives. And all the anti-road, no live export, anti-CJA, etc. protests - in many cases Green Party members are running them, and in all of them are Green Party activists playing their part.

At local elections we are very successful where we have the manpower to do a proper campaign. Whilst at Parliamentary level, the successful Energy Conservation Act speaks for itself. The fact we fielded a candidate in every seat in the country at the last European Elections shows what we are potentially capable of.

When you consider the size of membership and lack of money that the Green Party has to cope with, compared to organisations like Friends of the Earth or Greenpeace, what we do achieve is quite miraculous. Just imagine what might be if more people would join us.



**URGENT! URGENT! URGENT!**

By the time you receive this issue of Green World you will just have time you respond to this appeal. All that's required is to send a letter to

Governor Tom Ridge  
Main Capitol Building, Room 225  
Harrisburg  
PA 17120  
USA

Your letter might be the one to tip the balance and save the life of a kindred spirit, due to be executed on August 17th 1995.

Do it today, please. Now read on...

Mumia Abu-Jamal is a black journalist, and supporter of MOVE, a radical green group. Mainly black, MOVE have been viciously persecuted, and most surviving members are in prison. In 1985 the authorities bombed a MOVE communal household killing 5 children and 6 adults.

Mumia has been in prison for 14 years, convicted of killing a policeman. His guilt was never proven, the lawsuit was a classic racist conspiracy, which lacked in any legally tolerable basis. He was refused to choose his own counsel for the defence, and was appointed a novice with no experience, who was later banned from practise. His allowed defence expenses were \$150, less than normally allowed in drink driving cases, and the jury was packed with police associates - only 2 black jurors in a city with a 40% black population. He was found guilty despite the fact that numerous witnesses saw the real murderer, who didn't remotely resemble Mumia, and forensic evidence including ballistics failed to link Mumia to the murder. Mumia himself was shot in the stomach and nearly died during the incident. He's been refused leave to appeal.

At a demonstration outside the US embassy last month, Green Party Principal Speaker, David Taylor said, "Mumia has been framed for a crime he did not commit because of his political views. He is a brilliant journalist whose writings inspire all who struggle against racism and injustice. He is widely recognised as a powerful advocate of Green ideas and action. He has always spoken out on green issues, therefore the whole green movement should speak out for him."



Please write to Governor Tom Ridge and ask/demand that Mumia is not executed, but be given a fair retrial, and is afforded the rights he is entitled to under the American Constitution. The world is watching.

Further details call 0181 519 9228

## Nuclear Tests French boycott

When Jacques Chirac announced that France would be resuming nuclear tests in the South Pacific, there was global outrage. The UK Green Party took the initiative launching a campaign calling on people everywhere to boycott French goods. Before long, the boycott was being recommended everywhere from the editorial in New Scientist to politicians across the globe. A few days later, 150 French commandos stormed the Rainbow Warrior with tear gas causing further outrage.

The pressure on Chirac has been increasing daily. New Zealand, Australia and Japan have led the attack whilst mass demonstrations in French South Pacific Territories have revived the independence movement. Chirac was given a humiliating dressing down by the European Parliament, particularly by Green MEPs. Irish Green MEP Nuala Ahern was dragged to the floor by French security thugs.

As the worldwide protest grew, the US (whose military want to resume testing themselves) seeing the strength of feeling on the issue, finally issued a statement expressing their 'concern' over the French decision. This left just two major nations that have failed to condemn France: China, who shocked the world by conducting a nuclear test immediately after the Nuclear Proliferation Treaty (NPT) talks in June, and the other?? It had to be Britain didn't it?

Chirac misjudged the situation on two fronts. Firstly he failed to appreciate the strength of feeling about nuclear testing. The non nuclear nations were already smarting from the way the nuclear club had got its way on the NPT through economic blackmail and other pressures. This was really rubbing salt into the wound. And secondly, he assumed the French people didn't care. Recent polls show up to 75% the French people are against the tests. Demonstrators in several cities have demanded the test money be used to improve welfare and housing. Green Presidential Candidate Dominique Voinnet led several thousand in a march in Paris.

This is set to be a titanic struggle. If the British government are foolish to wage war on the united British Green movement over Newbury (though things might not be what they seem - see page 7), the French are taking on the whole world, and on an issue which transcends the destruction of some rare Berkshire countryside. To the French Polynesians it's a matter of life and death. Recent research by the Wales Green Party indicates it threatens everyone's health (see page 11). It is a battle that must be won. Victory will send an unequivocal message to the nuclear powers that the world will not tolerate further development of nuclear arms. It could be a historic turning point.

Please support this campaign like no other. Leaflets, stickers and briefings are available at cost price from Wales Green Party, 30 Queen Street, Aberystwyth, Dyfed SY23 1PU 01970 611226.

Finally, don't be nasty about the French people. One of the many things we have in common with them is the unfortunate habit of electing the most appalling people to run our countries.

## Greenpeace Threatened Brent Spa Lessons

The campaign to stop Shell from sinking the Brent Spa oil platform in the Atlantic was a very important victory. It delivered a powerful message to both the Government and industry - people do care about the environment, and are willing to do something about it.

Initiated and spearheaded by Greenpeace, the pressure on Shell grew rapidly, and was enormously embarrassing to them. They spend a lot of money trying to portray themselves as a green and responsible organisation. They had to postpone their Shell Better Britain Environmental Awards ceremony as the controversy raged on.

The deciding factor that finally persuaded them to back down was the boycott, which was beginning to seriously affect their profits. Germany was hitting them hardest, with petrol sales plummeting, and one station fire-bombed. The German Green Party deserves credit for initiating and galvanising public pressure so that Chancellor Kohl felt obliged to condemn Shell on behalf of the German government. The importance of Germany to Shell was evident when the company placed full page apologies to the German people in newspapers after the event!

The British Government were furious with Shell, having backed their dumping plans to the hilt. It later transpired, to our horror, that a crack military team were standing by, ready to board the oil platform and remove Greenpeace campaigners (note the similar mentality of our government and the French, who shortly afterwards attacked Greenpeace in the South Pacific).

Most worrying was the subsequent threatening utterances from a very angry Michael Heseltine, who said he would do to Greenpeace what he did to CND and the miners. (As Home Secretary in the mid 80's he employed the secret services and police to infiltrate, smear, and generally wreak havoc within these organisations). Ever since the U-turn, Shell and the Government have continued to insist that the sea dumping plan is the 'best practical environmental option', and together with the media, have accused Greenpeace of being unscientific, simplistic, and irresponsibly playing on peoples' emotions. These are outright lies.

Greenpeace employ highly qualified scientists, and are rigorous in their assessments before embarking on such campaigns. They had a copy of the Shell report which explored all the possible options for disposing the Brent Spa. The sea dumping decision was made primarily because it was a low cost option.

Finally, a sad observation. The Green Party, Greenpeace, and others have been attacking Shell for some time over the oil extraction operation on the Niger Delta, which has devastated the lives of the Ogoni people, whose farmland has been ruined by oil spills, villages covered in soot, and the people massacred by government troops when they have dared to protest. Whilst everyone was outraged at Shell's plans to sink an oil rig, no-one seems to give a damn about their far worse activities in Africa. They also run an operation off East Timor, the country which has suffered mass genocide by the Indonesian invaders. Britain is Indonesia's largest importer - much of which is military equipment.

The boycott should continue!

PETER BARNETT

## World Losing Ground

Experts say the world is literally losing ground' in its struggle against desertification, or land degradation caused by a combination of climate variations, overgrazing and overcropping, bad irrigation and deforestation. These could threaten more than a billion people, nearly a fifth of the world's population.

A new report reveals that the scope of the problem is staggering.

- 69% or a quarter of the world's 5.2 billion hectares of arable land already faces erosion and soil degradation;
- more than 100 countries are affected, including parts of southern Europe and North America;
- desertification costs the world \$42 billion a year in lost agricultural production and other degradation costs, a quarter of which is felt in Africa alone;
- 73% of Africa's drylands are moderately or severely affected, and 74% in North America.

The report, entitled 'Down to Earth: A simple guide to the Convention to Combat Desertification, why it is necessary and what is important and different about it' says the loss of agriculturally rich topsoil is a problem of global dimensions, but nowhere is this more acute than in the world's drylands, or land most suitable for agriculture. As land turns to dust and topsoil blows away, people are forced to flee to new areas where they can till their crops or graze their herds.

June 17th 1995 was designated World Day to Combat Desertification and Drought - but how many people heard about it? Elizabeth Dowdeswell, UNEP Executive Director, at least did. She issued the statement:

*'We have come to see desertification as a social problem rather than one that can be solved by purely technical strategies. We now realise the political and social reality of desertification. This has produced a common understanding of the necessity for community involvement and commitment in actions on the ground and of the value of local knowledge and traditional means of living in harsh and fragile dryland environments.'*

## Food Stocks Too Low

The Food and Agriculture Organisation say food stocks may fall below the minimum necessary to safeguard world food security. According to the FAO's latest forecast, world cereal production in 1995 stands at 1.933 billion tons, down about 20 million tons or 1% from last year.

The situation is particularly tight for wheat, with extremely low stocks forecast in the hands of the major exporters, and with rising prices. It is estimated that total cereal food aid from July 1994 to June 1995 was 9.8 million tons, down from 13.3 million tons delivered the previous year. This is the lowest level in more than a decade.

Africa is most affected by food stock shortages, with 15 sub-Saharan countries facing shortfalls requiring special assistance. In the Near East, the food supply situation remains serious in Iraq and Afghanistan, while in the Far East Cambodia, Mongolia and Nepal need assistance. Shortages exist in for USSR countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Tajikistan.

UN Non-Govt. Liaison Service

## DAVID ICKE Anti-Semitic or just Naive?

In September last year the Green Party Executive decided, without opposition, to refuse Icke a platform at our Annual Conference. It also banned the sale of his book, *The Robots Rebellion*.

The decision was exceptional, but it was necessary. Icke's use of anti-Semitic material and his continuing public association with the Green Party make a neutral position untenable.

The Robots Rebellion is a conspiracy theory which claims a group of aliens and well-connected people, called the Illuminati, are manipulating and controlling world events with a view to establishing global domination.

One of Icke's main sources is a notorious document called the 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion', which he renames 'the Illuminati Protocols'. It states that Jews are trying to take over the world, and was used by Nazis to justify the genocide of 6 million people. The Waffen SS used to carry copies in their knapsacks.

By using this document Icke denies the word of those historians who have demonstrated, beyond doubt, that the Protocols are a forgery. He also gives credence to those groups who still use the Protocols to justify their anti-Semitism.

Combat 18, the neo-Nazi group best known for organising violence at football matches, have advertised Icke's recent tour in their Journal Putsch. They are also believed to have attended many of Icke's meetings, including those in Bury St. Edmunds, Bath and Glastonbury.

In Bath and Glastonbury, Green Party members have been leafleting people attending the meetings. One of the Glastonbury leafleters subsequently received a threatening phone call, 'thanking' them for publicising Icke.

Meanwhile the Jewish Chronicle (19/5/95) has reported Icke's publisher, Alick Bartholomew of Gateway Books, as saying:

*'There was Holocaust revisionist material in the first draft (of Icke's new book), but in the second it's disappeared.'* However, Gateway have subsequently pulled out of publishing Icke's book, presumably it reappeared in the third draft. Icke is now planning to publish it himself.

Some are inclined to dismiss Icke as a 'has been' or a nutter. But the first print run of *The Robots Rebellion* sold out within six weeks and the book is now into its third reprint. One person at Gateway went so far as to describe him as being 'on a roller'!

In the media David is still frequently associated with the Green Party. In fact he 'did the decent thing' when he resigned all his positions and his membership before the 'son of godhead' story first appeared four years ago.

I do not personally believe David is anti-Semitic, but his behaviour encourages people to believe otherwise. And there are many who would like to tar the Green Party with a racist brush. We cannot afford to be neutral on this.

Not all that is New Age is Green Age!  
David Taylor

## The Land is Ours

Is launching a competition in August to find Britain's best and worst landlords. The Green Party is one of the sponsors.

Details: George Montblot 01865 724360

## Solsbury Hill Action Group

Solsbury Hill Reclaim the Land Weekend  
11th-14th August 1995  
Weekend of anti-road actions.  
Camp, music, etc, on Solsbury Hill.  
Details call 01225 448556

The Solsbury Hill campaigners have so far caused the Dept. of Roads - sorry - Transport, to drop the South of Bath route land held to push many other schemes off the roads program, and the local council to drop plans for two new local roads.

We are continuing to oppose the huge-scale so-called Bathaston Bypass, due for completion in Autumn 1996, and campaigning against other roads planned for our area, including 3 NEW OVAL CARRIAGEWAY SCHEMES WITHIN 6 MILES OF BATH!

Tania de St Croix, SHAG, c/o  
103 Ringswell Gardens, Bath BA1 6BW  
01225 448556

## Wells Relief Road

Somerset Green Party members have been campaigning with others to stop the Wells Relief Road, particularly that part of it which runs straight through school playing fields.

This came to head in June when the anti-road group called a townpoll. The result was a crushing defeat for the Liberal Democrat County Council who have claimed for years that the road had overwhelming local support. On a turnout of 36%, opponents of the road won 55% of the vote, some 1550 electors.

The Environment Committee then demonstrated their commitment to the environment and to democracy by chucking out any suggestion of reviewing their advocacy of the road.

This road is rapidly becoming a national symbol of Lib Dem hypocrisy. Protesters have moved into Dulcote Woods to prepare for the next phase of the campaign, non-violent direct action.

STEVE DAWE

## The SCHNEWS CJA Arrestometer

Hunt sabs	151
Road Protesters	66
Football Fans	45
Environmentalists	44
No live exports*	38
Travellers	11
Tree defenders	11
Illegal gatherers	3
Druids	1
Peace Campaigners	1

\* Over 1000 animal rights activists arrested, usually under Public Order Act.

SchNEWS is a weekly news bulletin giving the latest news of direct action and CJA activity across the nation. Send a few fist stamps to: SchNEWS, c/o On-the-Fiddle, PO Box 2600, Brighton, E. Sussex OY12 7JG 685913

Conscious Cinema are producing a monthly video featuring footage of current direct actions, protests etc. Available by donation the aim is to encourage people to organise their own local 'collective cinema' and get as many people to see it as possible - and hopefully motivate them to join the action. Viewing might be a front room, or hiring the local hall. Details: Kevin Dove, PO Box 2879, Brighton Sussex BN2 1UJ 01585 312488

## Diary date

International Gathering of Social Ecology Network Aug 14-19 in Dunoon, Scotland. Call Matt Norrish 0131 229 9052



## LIVE EXPORT PROTESTS WINNING!

The demonstrations against live exports at air and sea ports across the country began long before the media took an interest earlier this year, and continue every day, even though the media have largely moved on.

The good news is that the demonstrators are winning. No animals have been shipped out of Coventry for weeks, and exporters Phoenix Aviation have gone into liquidation. In Dover a complicated legal battle rages over whether exports should continue, whilst the debt ridden original exporter has had ships impounded in France. Though trying to put on a brave face, the meat industry is suffering - in Ireland it is reported to be in deep deep trouble.

Both the authorities and the export companies have seriously underestimated the tenacity and determination of the protesters. In Shoreham latest figures estimate that security is costing £7,227 per week, £3,800 more than is made from the live exports!

With its profits plummeting, the industry is getting desperate. It's probable that increased pressure from them has led to the recent escalation in police activity, and violence, and the lack of media coverage (fluently advertising deals at stake).

They still don't understand. When the police attempted a heavy crackdown in Brighton last April, the number of demonstrators doubled! The more coercive they become, the more determined the protesters are to resist oppression. By employing strong arm tactics and making mass arrests, the police have widened the demonstrators' agenda. A spokesperson for the Shoreham Pensioners Against Live Exports said: "The issue is not just about animal rights. It is also about the Criminal Justice Act. Section 70 of the Act can even ban demonstrations. Anti-live export protesters are getting it now, you could be next. It is in the interests of all progressive groups and individuals that oppose the CIA to support the demonstration."

### Boycott 'em

Notwithstanding nuclear tests, Air France should be avoided anyway, having stated that they have no intention of following the example of other European airlines and stopping the worldwide transport of primates destined for vivisection laboratories.

## DOVER DEMOS

The Kent Defiance Alliance, an anti-Criminal Justice and Public Order Act 1994 Coalition, initiated a demonstration in Dover against live exports and questioning policing methods. The Defiance Alliance incorporates the Association of Kent Hunt Parties, Militant Labour, Green Sabes groups, Medway FoE, etc.

About 600-700 people attended, from Kent and as far away as Brighton/Seas and Shoreham. Green Parties in Kent were strongly represented. The wide variety of speakers included the main individual organiser, Chris Hollan, Thanet and Dover Green Party Press Officer; Hugo Charlton, of Green Party Regional Council; representatives of Militant Labour and the Brighton/Seas campaigners against live exports.

Speech highlights included Joan Le Mesurier emphasising that our common purpose was compassion, for animals and each other, which brought a strong positive response from the demonstrators.

The demonstration was led by the Thanet Green Party banner, carried valiantly in high winds by Angie Cantwell, aged 7, Steve Dawe's daughter and Stella Dawe, Hazel Dawe's 9 year old. Needless to say, much parental assistance was needed. The children featured in the Dover Express article on the demo. General media coverage was good, including Meridian TV News.

## Police go Fishing in Shoreham

Police raided the offices of Campaign Against Live Freight (CALF) and the homes of associates, carrying warrants for (wait for it...) "drug distribution, fraud, assault and damage!"

Walls were drilled, floorboards ripped up, computers, address books, personal effects, EVERYTHING TAKEN.

The wife of a CALF associate was held and questioned all day at Worthing PS - she received no food until the last hour, then given a sausage sandwich (yuk!).

Police claimed the raids were concerned with petrol bomb incidents in the Shoreham area. What petrol bombs? And what's that got to do with drugs, fraud and assault??

CALF will sue for exemplary damage and malicious seizure of goods. CALF member John White said: "It was a fishing expedition. They did a blanket grab - even our files on our Funday which was supposed to heal the wounds between the police and residents after Shoreham."

SchNews

## Poor Cow

The diversity of people taking part in live exports demonstrations is simply wonderful. From kids to pensioners, unemployed, professionals and academics. Dear Spike Milligan and Carla Lane, even ex-unimath Alan Clark (a man with an unfathomably mixed up sense of values - caring deeply for animals, yet believing it's fine to export arms to oppressive regimes knowing they will be used to terrorise and slaughter people, in the interests of the British Arms Industry) But mostly ordinary folk who share in a horror of cruelty to animals.

How many people, who abhor the treatment of veal calves, are aware of the suffering endured by their mothers - dairy cows?

Human beings are the only animal which drinks the milk of another species. By doing so, we deprive calves of their mothers and their natural diet, and deprive cows of their calves. This is a very traumatic experience for both and they will cry and search for each other for a long time after separation.

After a 9 month pregnancy, the cow is left with nothing, yet she is forced to go on giving. A continual flow of milk is extracted from the dairy cow only by subjecting her to yearly pregnancies. After giving birth, she will be milked for 10 months, but during the third month she will be made pregnant again. 6-8 weeks after drying out she will give birth yet again.

As one of the 3.5 million milk machines in the UK, she is likely to be yielding up to an unnatural 6,000 litres per year, 5 times as much as a cow in the 1950's, and 10 times as much as her calf would need. Milked twice or 3 times a day, her full udder can weigh the equivalent of 50 bags of sugar. In some cases it may even drag on the floor.

The intensification of the dairy industry has led to increases in diseases such as Mastitis, Laminitis and BSE, the last two caused by the unnatural diet cows are fed. Cows are continually given antibiotics which will stay in the cows body and can be passed on in her milk, as well as meat.

## Poor Calf

There are 5 possible fates for calves in the dairy industry. The luckiest are slaughtered immediately and used in pet food; rennet from their stomach lining is used in cheese.

Some calves are reared for beef and slaughtered at 11

months. 80% of all beef produced is from the dairy industry. Most vegetarians don't realise that!

Many calves are exported each year and end up in veal crates where they are reared for 16 weeks. They are fed on a milk substitute, deficient in iron and fibre to keep their flesh white.

Some females will be reared to become dairy herd replacement and begin at the age of 18 to 24 months the life-long cycle of continual pregnancies.

A few calves will be reared as bulls, spending their lives alone in solitary confinement, serving 'canvass cows' and rubber tubes. Artificial insemination account for about 65-75% of all conceptions.

What Can You Do?

Reduce your use of dairy products, aiming to cut them out all together. They contain no dietary fibre, and pose a threat to human health. The link between food with high saturated fat and heart disease is well established - as is the prevalence of cow's milk (asthma, eczema, diarrhoea and colic in infants. Most incidents of food poisoning can be traced to animal foods, including milk and cheese.

Fortunately safer, healthier and cruelty-free alternatives exist in the form of soy-based milks, cheeses and yoghurts - and even ice cream! Turning vegan is much easier than you think.

### CONTACTS: & INFORMATION

ARCNEWS. News and comment from the animal rights movement. PO Box 339, Wolverhampton WV10 0T02 711 935

The Vegan Society, Donald Watson House, 7 Battle Road, St. Leonards On Sea, East Sussex TN37 7AA 01424 427393

Animal Protesters Bulletin - weekly news bulletin giving details of ongoing demonstrations and other items of interest. £5 (donation for 10 issues): Liz Long, 13 Rosenheath Rd, London SW11 6AC  
Animals Contact List - Lists all local and national animal rights and welfare groups, plus 100's of other useful addresses of green and ethical organisations. Excellent! £3 to: Veggie, 180 Mansfield Rd, Nottingham NG1 3HW.

For details of ongoing demonstrations:

Brightlingsea	01206 304726
Coventry	01564 776984
Dover	01304 362666
Plymouth	01752 228098
Shoreham	01273 795399
CALF (24 hrs)	01273 720401
York (AHP)	01423 563148

# Anti-road campaigns

## GOVERNMENT DECLARES WAR ON NEWBURY

### "Let the Battle Commence..."

## An Impending Disaster

The people of Newbury have mixed fortunes. On the one hand their town suffers from appalling traffic problems, whilst on the other they are blessed with some of the finest unspoilt English countryside remaining in the South East.

The tragedy is, some local people are not fully aware of the wonderful and precious landscape on their doorstep, whilst others have been convinced by a vociferous and well funded campaign that in order to relieve the town's congestion, they must lose their countryside to a major bypass.

They are being deceived. There is big, big money at stake, not just for the road building industry. The road will create massive opportunities for infill development. Ultimately, the road will generate more traffic to the area, more development and more people. Just like other bypass schemes before it, the relief of congestion in the town will be very short lived.

Local vested interests, developers and land owners, who stand to make a fortune, have joined forces with Newbury Council, who are bankrolling the pro-bypass campaign with substantial amounts of local tax payers money. And it has become a very dirty campaign indeed. Bypass protesters have been slapped and spat upon by the "Tarmac Now!" crew at public meetings, whilst local residents are being fed a mound of misinformation and propaganda.

## Newbury Betrayed

When Transport Secretary Dr. Mawhinney announced that he was putting the bypass on hold for a year to look at "other options", great hope

was set store by this apparently reasoned approach to the most controversial road plan in Britain. It now transpires that the whole thing was a trick, a diversionary tactic, to dampen the mounting pressure from the Green movement whilst giving them breathing space to organise a counter-attack.

Thus, six months earlier than promised, on the day of the Cabinet reshuffle, Mawhinney announces the bypass will proceed, and dumps the problem on new Transport

Secretary Sir George Young. Meanwhile, down at Newbury Council Offices, local Lib Dem MP David Rendel celebrates with his chums with champagne (at whose expense we wonder).

Newbury Green Party, Friends of the Earth and other local groups were furious. They had taken Mawhinney at his word, when he promised a year long review with proper consultation, and were engaged in a search for solutions to Newbury's transport problems that would preclude the environmental devastation of the bypass scheme. FoE had commissioned the Metropolitan Transport Research Unit to explore less destructive solutions at a cost of nearly £15,000.

There was real hope that a sane and sustainable scheme could be devised and Newbury could set a shining example for future transport policy across the nation. Instead, the decision was taken on the basis of a so-called review by the Highways Agency, a laughable document, so full of holes that one must assume it's designed to be deliberately provocative to stir up more controversy. No interested parties were allowed to submit evidence, and none of the promised consultation, so no alternatives were put to the people of Newbury. That was Mawhinney's "Great Transport Debate."

## The Hidden Agenda

So what's going on? On the surface, it appears to be one great bloody stitch up, between the Dept. of Transport, road builders and local developers. With growing support for the Green's Traffic Reduction Bill, and the FoE sponsored project underway, they rushed ahead with the announcement, before a viable alternative scheme emerged to jeopardise their well laid plans.

The decision to go ahead with the bypass had been taken long before the so-called review, which was partly a cosmetic exercise to look as though they had explored all avenues, and partly a delaying tactic, to build up massive local support through lies and propaganda and wrong-foot the bypass opponents.

But behind all that is the real agenda, and the real mugs are the Liberal Democrats. The Government isn't that bothered about the road. Their single, over-riding concern is, as always, to win the next election. To do so, they must inflict maximum damage on the Lib Dems, who

threatening so many southern seats.

With their appalling environmental record the Tories know they have no chance of winning the Green vote. Not so the Lib Dems, however, who put great emphasis on their green credentials. But as we all know, when it comes to the crunch, they heedlessly dump any policy in the pursuit of the popular vote. Newbury is a classic example. With the sheer enormity of environmental destruction threatened by the bypass, it seems incredulous that the "oh so Green" Lib Dems are supporting it. Until you realise that, so too do a majority of local voters.

The Government knows the '3rd Battle of Newbury' will make Twyford Down look like a mere skirmish. And Twyford inflicted serious damage on them. There is a huge alliance of Green organisations, from the majors - WWF, Greenpeace, FoE, Transport 2000, Alarm UK, the Wildlife Trusts, Plantlife, etc., together with the more radical direct action groups like Road Alert! (who are based in Newbury), Earth First!, land reformers, and half a dozen local groups, and finally, the local Green Party, who fielded 17 candidates in the Newbury elections, and can call upon the powerful, several hundred strong Oxford Green Party nearby for support.

Clearly the people of Newbury will not remain ignorant and misinformed by the pro-bypass lobby for long. The Government hopes that as the tide turns against the bypass, it will be the local Lib Dems who take most of the flak, their green credentials rightly discredited, and hypocrisy exposed. We hope the Lib Dems realise the madness of taking on the entire Green movement, and switch sides quickly before it's too late and they play into the Tories hands. The timing is crucial, as the construction, if it goes ahead, will be in full swing right in the middle of the next General Election!

Greens must beware. The Dept of Transport are learning from past mistakes. They now realise the importance of public opinion, and will be deploying every tactic possible to keep local people duped into believing the bypass is a good thing. They have even set up their own local committee in Newbury "to keep in touch". They know full well that a strong local pro-bypass movement will be the best weapon possible against the Green lobby, who will be demonised as "outsiders concerned more about a few

bats than the people of Newbury, etc. etc.

To stop the bypass, the people of Newbury must not only be made aware of how they are being manipulated, and be also be given a viable alternative option to fight for - and drive out those who plan to despoil their natural assets.

## Under Threat

The A34 Newbury bypass will be one of the most destructive roads in recent history. It will plough through spectacular English countryside, and will:

- \* Destroy part of Snelmore Common, a Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI), and one of the best remaining heathlands in Berkshire;
- \* Cause flooding of the river Kennet (designated SSSI), so threatening protected species like the Kingfisher and Hobby;
- \* Wreck the idyllic rural atmosphere in the picturesque village of Bagnor and the acclaimed Watermill Theatre;
- \* Damage the river Lambourn (designated SSSI), and the local nature reserve Ruck Marsh, a habitat for protected wildlife;
- \* Destroy the unique setting of the Historic Garden at Donnington Grove and Donnington Castle, a Scheduled Ancient Monument and site of the Second Battle of Newbury;

- \* Pass through the site of the First Battle of Newbury, damaging part of the site and effectively destroying the peace and tranquility of the area;
- \* Run through the middle of Redding Copse which harbours bats and dormice, animals protected under the new European Habitats Directive;
- \* Pass three times through the North Wessex Downs Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

Four complaints are in progress with the European Union about breaches of EU Directives, including (incredibly) the failure to carry out a full Environmental Impact Assessment of the route. UK Legal challenges are underway.

Call the pledge line to say you will be there to show your opposition to the bypass.

### Call the Pledge line to say you will be there to show your opposition to the bypass.

01488 608388 or  
01635 253079

A protest camp has been in position in Newbury for over a year. Contact Road Alert!

### CONTACTS:

Newbury Green Party  
1 Fairview, Andover Road,  
Newbury 01635 35859  
Road Alert!,  
PO Box 5544, Newbury  
RG14 5FB 01635 521770  
FoE 0171 490 1555



## The Criminal Justice Act is failing, whilst police violence against peaceful protesters is getting worse - much worse.

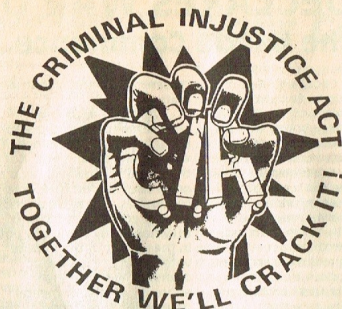
The CJA is going the way of the Poll Tax. Inoperable in principle, unworkable in practice, and ruinously expensive. The police are being pressurised to implement this overtly politically motivated Act, and are losing sight of their primary responsibility: to protect the public and uphold the law.

If the CJA was designed to curb protest, it's failed spectacularly, and had the exact opposite effect. Hunt sabbing, live export and anti-road protests have continued unabated, whilst dozens more, many specifically to oppose the CJA, have sprung up everywhere.

Less than 400 people have been arrested under the Act, and under 10% of those have been convicted. Nearly half the cases have been dropped, the remainder pending. Well over 1000 more have been arrested under the Public Order Act and others. Most were subsequently released without charge. The police are facing a mountain of legal actions for unlawful arrest and more serious complaints involving violence.

Huge resources are being used against peaceful protesters when real crime is at epidemic levels and police forces are complaining about cutbacks. Crime frightens people, and politicians cynically capitalise on this fear for their own ends. In a vicious circle - crime rises, the Government responds by introducing more severe measures, the measures don't work, crime rises, and the process repeats itself, over and over. And despite each failure, they gain points by being "even tougher on crime."

An unpunished government, blaming everyone except itself for its failures, picked on certain sections of society to be scapegoats. With the help of the media, travellers, squatters, animal rights, environmentalists, anti-nuclear, single parents and the homeless are amongst those they have attempted to discredit and demonise.



New laws are introduced, and the police are put under intense pressure from the Home Office to crack down on the selected victims. The result is law courts clogged up with the newly criminalised citizens, the police diverted from tackling real crime, and the highest prison population in Europe. An Act against the basic rights to protest; to travel, or just to be different was bound to backfire. Was it deliberate? Watch out for the next set of crackdown measures in Michael Howard's Conference speech.

Labour and Lib Dems, scrambling for the 'Middle England' vote, fear any suggestion of being soft on Law and Order. They let the CJA pass unhypocritically and cowardly. Only the Green Party officially opposes the CJA.

The growing number of people 'voting with their feet' at demonstrations indicates how politicians are failing them. Increasingly people are taking control over their lives, with community based initiatives like LETS, rejecting a Government who profits before people, animals, and the environment.

Senior police officers urgently need to step back and reassess their position. They are allowing themselves to be used for political purposes. Their relationship with the public is rapidly deteriorating as they appear more and more often in riot gear, armed for conflict. The police state looms closer.

### An Appalling Record

The record of complaints against the police in recent times is staggering. 150,000

People lose faith in the law when they see police making a mockery of it. When the police consider themselves above the law, it's time to worry.

Only a handful of police forces have gone over the top in single-minded vendettas against assorted 'titenants'. In Surrey, a notorious blackspot for hunt violence, full use of the CJA was expected. Instead the police continued to meet with

local hunt sabs and not deemed it necessary to use their new powers. Sabbing continues, despite attempts by the Surrey Union Fox Hunt to create flashpoints, luckily recognised both by police and sabs.

Contrast that with the violent behaviour of Essex police against protesters at Brightlingsea, condemned even by the Daily Express! The latest reports indicate a new level of force, where the infliction of severe pain and GBH is apparently construed as 'reasonable force'.

Labour and Lib Dems, which the police promised to investigate. Unfortunately, the police internal investigation process has been totally discredited. With only 8% of officers concerned being 'disciplined', some, whose actions resulted in damages paid to victims, later being given promotion, there's no confidence in the process. Many people don't bother, believing it's a waste of time, or fearing victimisation for criticising the police. The real number of complaints is anyone's guess. The United Nations Committee on Human Rights fiercely criticised Britain's record, including 'not having a 'credible mechanism' for investigating allegations against the police." (July 1995)

Police methods and equipment are changing. The inglorious Battle of the Beanfield was 10 years ago. A big difference today is that 'ordinary people', from so-called 'Middle England' have joined the protests, and have experienced the repression previously reserved for more traditional 'enemies of the State'.

Another big difference is the camcorder - protesters bring their own video camera along to actions - it is a most powerful defensive weapon. It has been used in court to overturn police charges, and kept many a protest under control. Though not always, as some sequences featured in Small World's 'Undercurrents' series and elsewhere testify.

### Police Complaints Authority since 1985 have received:

150,000 formal complaints - 45,000 for assault  
9,000 for evidence rigging  
14,000 oppressive conduct  
812 for corruption

Over £1 m paid in damages, including  
£250,000 to hunt sabs  
£46,000 to Twyford Down  
£425,000 to miners

The vast majority of protesters are committed to non-violence. They passively resist arrest by going 'floppy', but police methods of arrest are getting nastier. In the recent incident at Brightlingsea,

protesters chained themselves inside metal tubes under a coach. It is alleged that police, lacking the equipment to remove them, resorted to inflicting severe pain to force protesters into submission. Senior Research Scientist Dr. Martin Balluch was one of the protesters, and in a letter to the police wrote:

"The police officers proceeded by inflicting so much pain on the chained-up protesters that they had to undo their chains. I saw pain was inflicted by squeezing testicles, a officers pulling on the chained persons' extremities and applying handcuffs as a lever to dislocate joints and to damage soft tissue on the wrists. All protesters were heavily bruised all over their bodies afterwards, especially on their arms and legs."

Green Party Executive Committee member, Alex Begg, an experienced protester (see Green World #9) locked himself to a digger arm, at an action against open cast mining in Yorkshire. Police, wearing bullet proof vests (II) arrived and cut through lock the with Alex's co-operation. So far, quite normal procedure. He informed the police that he would be passively resisting arrest and would be like a sack of potatoes. The police behaviour changed. Alex stated:

"My left hand was put in a quick-kuf behind my back and tightened. I was lifted by the wrists, while at the same time pressure was applied to a pressure point below my right ear. I was marched at a brisk pace towards the vans - some thirty yards away. The pain was excruciating, unbelievably intense. It was blinding pain, so that I was totally unaware of anything around me and unable to think of anything but the pain. I can only liken it to a bad burn all over my hands that just got worse and worse, while something that felt like a spike was driven into my head. I screamed, and tears were streaming down my face. At that moment I would have confessed to anything."

A medical examination later confirmed his hands had suffered nerve damage. There have been over 300 complaints about injuries from quick-kufs, including dislocated and broken wrists.

PETER BARNETT PENNY KEMP

### BREAKTHROUGH IN LOW LEVEL RADIATION CAMPAIGN: "ASTONISHING REVERSAL OF GOVERNMENT POLICY"

The Green Party's Low Level Radiation Research Unit made a startling breakthrough following a high level meeting with Welsh Office officials. The team now have unrestricted access to official statistics on cancer in even the smallest areas of Wales (subject only to protection of patients' confidentiality).

"This is an astonishing reversal of government policy," said Richard Bramhall. "Anti-nuclear campaigners have been trying for years to determine the true levels of cancers in particular towns and districts near nuclear power stations. But Parliamentary Questions and applications to the Secretary of State for Health for release of small area statistics have always met a brick wall of secrecy."

Trevor Sargent TD, a Green Party MP in the Irish Dail, wrote to the Wales Cancer Registry supporting the Campaign team's demand for the fine grain of Welsh cancer data.

"Information of the required detail has not been forthcoming. This you will appreciate leaves people with the impression that something is being deliberately hidden or obscured."

Referring to a European Union Directive on freedom of access to environmental information, Mr. Sargent told the Cancer Registry that the environmental information issue would "be explored by the Irish Attorney General as part of the Government's stated policy. ....we have legitimate grounds both for objection to contamination and (for objection to) the with-holding of detailed information which would allow the Radiological Protection Institute of Ireland to develop proper risk models."

"At our meeting with the Welsh Office the first thing they said was that the data Mr. Sargent requested would be released," said Richard Bramhall. "It seems that bureaucrats aren't willing to shield the nuclear industry from the pressure of public opinion indefinitely."

"We are sure that detailed study of common cancers will show variations between places exposed to different levels of contamination. An example is the Irish Sea coast. We will now be able to study cancer among people living near the sea and compare incidence rates with inland populations."

## RADIATION - FLUORIDE

"The nuclear industry pulls the wool over our eyes by repeating that the radiation dose we get from their pollution is tiny compared with Natural Background Radiation," said Richard Bramhall, "But they're not comparing like with like; we have genetic repair mechanisms to cope with damage from NBR, while the evidence suggests that artificial isotopes can bypass those biological mechanisms if we build them into body tissue."

The Campaign team has waged a war of words with the Government, demanding an independent inquiry and a revision of radiological risk estimates. Letters, reports, and self-published books and leaflets have resulted in a good press, especially in Wales, where the cancer figures are most alarming. Press coverage went national with a major New Statesman article in January this year, and an independent producer has obtained substantial funding for developing a TV documentary. "It's clear that our combination of research and publicity backed up with the threat of direct action is a campaigning strategy which works," says Richard Bramhall. "Already, when Nuclear Electric planned to restart a superannuated power station in Wales, we aroused so much public concern over safety that the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate delayed giving authorisation until Nuclear Electric simply had to give up. By similar tactics we stopped them burning radioactive waste in Wales, and now we're chasing them as they try dumping the same waste on unsuspecting parts of England."

### Fluoridation of water

Greens welcome yorkshire water decision not to fluoridate water supplies. A long campaign to stop the fluoridation of water supplies in Yorkshire has brought success. Nick Harvey of Kirklees Green Party is delighted. He said today, "With many thousands of domestic users petitioning Yorkshire Water and The Green Party's constant campaign against the compulsory fluoridation of water, we feel it is a victory for the public. We praise Yorkshire Water for listening to peoples objections." Mr Harvey continued, "The information supplied to me in a letter received today from David Brimblecombe, Company Secretary of Yorkshire Water, is ground breaking as it states that the principal reason given is 'the Government is not prepared to

offer an indemnity acceptable to the Company to cover the risks involved'. This decision will be a major help to campaigners throughout the country to stop the fluoridation of our drinking water supplies."

The full text of the letter is as follows: Dear Mr Harvey I thought you would be interested to know that Yorkshire Water has decided that it will not agree to add fluoride to water supplied in its region. The principal reason for this decision is that the Government is not prepared to offer an indemnity acceptable to the Company to cover the risks involved. In addition, fluoride does not enhance drinking water quality and we are concerned that installing fluoridation plants and storing chemicals at our works would increase the complexity and risk associated with water treatment processes. There would be increased danger of water supplies being rendered unwholesome or unfit for consumption and this is a risk to which we are unwilling to expose our customers. We have informed Health Authorities and other interested bodies of our decision.

Yours sincerely, David Brimblecombe  
Subject: Health Facts and Fiction

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## Green Party Health Policy

A man falls from the top of a multi-storey building. As he passes each window he calls out to the occupants "Alright so far!" Green Party health policy needs to be concerned with what happens before he falls as well as when he hits the ground.

The word 'health' means wholeness and implies integration and interconnectedness. The quality of people's health is a significant indicator of the degree of social justice and ecological harmony in a society. The less 'green' a society is, the worse the health of its people is likely to be. Conversely the kind of green society we are striving to establish will, through its very nature, offer the best opportunity for the health of its citizens. As greens we regard it as axiomatic that human beings who live in harmony with their environment and in a socially just society will tend to avoid disease (dis-ease) and to have a sense of positive health and well-being.

A Green health policy should have two aspects - short term, mainly related to current patterns of treating the sick, and long term, mainly related to the creation of positive health in a green society. Up till now our policy as defined in M55 has concentrated almost exclusively on two areas: the values and principles that underlie our approach to health, and the changes we wish to see in the present day-NHS.

In the health section of M55 there is little attention given to outlining policies that will take us towards our vision of a healthy Green society (a society based on holistic principles with people living in sensitive harmony with their environment). Also little space is given to policies to introduce a holistic approach throughout medicine and to give a much larger role for alternative medicine along the lines of such initiatives as the Bristol Cancer Help Centre. We are in danger of being overtaken by events and already our stance on alternative medicine lags behind the Labour and Liberal-Democratic parties. The Health Policy Group is now attempting to remedy these deficiencies by redrafting the Party's health policy.

The section on values and principles states that: health for individuals is only possible within the context of a healthy society; ill health requires intervention not only at the level of the individual but also at the level of the social and the ecological; health services are necessary but cannot themselves generate much improvement in the well-being of the population; and personal responsibility for health is to be encouraged but within a context of economic, social and political change.

The policies for changing the NHS are good green social engineering. They call for decentralisation, a broader approach to health, less high tech medicine, easier access, adequately funded community care, restrictions on the marketing of pharmaceuticals, more emphasis on prevention and emphasis on self-help.

The NHS is much more of a sickness service than a health service. It is almost exclusively concerned with those members of society who have become sick. Health is seen as merely the absence of sickness. In Canada Professor Ross Hume Hall has estimated that

80% of the national health budget is devoted to prolonging the lives of people who, whatever treatment they receive, will die in the next ten months. However, as Greens we see health as a positive state of physical, psychological, emotional, spiritual and social well-being. With this definition it becomes clear that all Green Party policies ultimately relate to health. Just as all policies need to have an environmental 'pre-audit', so they need to be checked for their health effects. Nevertheless our health policy statement needs to refer to the main interactions between these policies and health.

Several years ago when I joined the Health Policy Group I was concerned that our policy did not indicate the interconnections between environment, lifestyle and health. It was this that led me to write a booklet on the subject, 'Rescuing the Nation's Health', on behalf of the Policy Group. The policies proposed in that are now in the process of being incorporated into our M55 policy statement.

These policy areas can be mentioned only briefly here. General policy areas include the redistribution of wealth, the use of indicators of health and well-being rather than GNP, an intersectoral government committee on health (now actually in being), health education, advertising, taxation, medical training, and a centre for public health policy. Specific policy areas include tobacco, alcohol, food, breast feeding, preconception and pregnancy health, air pollution, water pollution, pollution in the home and workplace, pesticides, physically active lifestyles, psychological and emotional stress, ionising radiation, electro-magnetic radiation, iatrogenic (doctor-caused) illness and road transport.

Although it was imagined when the NHS was established that the population would become so healthy that it would become largely redundant, there are ever-increasing demands upon it. Our lifestyle and our environment are causing increasing numbers to be sick and the NHS is buckling under the strain. According to the General Household Survey the percentage of the population reporting long-standing illness rose from 21% in 1972 to 34% in 1990.

Whereas UK total health care expenditure was 3.9% of GDP in 1960 it had risen to 6.1% in 1990. The way out of this situation is not through pouring more and more money into treatment but through answering the question 'Why do people become ill?'

It is as if there is a cliff with people falling over it. At the bottom are ambulances taking away the injured. Yet nobody is putting a fence at the top of the cliff to stop people falling over.

David Gillett, Convenor  
Green Party Health Policy Group

## GREENING THE NATIONS HEALTH

The Green Party has always claimed that Green policies would lead to greater levels of health in the population, and less demand on the NHS. Other parties are claims beginning to make the same kind of noises: Labour's recently

unveiled plans include a welcome proposal for a Minister of Public Health, while in her introduction to the Health of the Nation White Paper, even Virginia Bottomley paid lip service to the notion that the pursuit of 'health' in its widest sense was the responsibility not just of the Department of Health, but of all the other Departments of Government, although, naturally, her actions give the lie to her words. The Government's failure to ban tobacco advertising demonstrates that they have not begun to grasp the implications of "intersectoral" health. To Tories, the responsibility for health begins and ends with the individual - the 'brown bread and jogging' approach to health promotion.

I have taken a 12 month extended study leave from my practice leave to look at the potential of Government action to improve the Health of the Nation by addressing unemployment, deprivation, poor housing, social conditions, and environmental pollution.

The results will be presented in a report to the NHS officials in Leeds in early October - to be launched in the Autumn Green Party Conference - and published in a book later this year by Radcliffe Medical Press. In brief, by reviewing published research and making a few calculations, it seems that 20% of the NHS clinical budget is being frittered away in attempting to treat illness arising from unemployment, poverty, bad housing, and environmental pollution.

Inadequate housing makes the largest single contribution, causing #2 billion worth of illness - 6% of the NHS budget, in a study commissioned by the Department of the Environment. Needless to say, they have suppressed publication of the research. Environmental pollution is much more difficult to assess. The report will show how the official approach to some if not all pollution incidents is unscientific, using a method more akin to the mediaeval scholastics than the observe-hypothesise-test approach of true science. Standards and onus of so-called "proof" is misplaced, and little attention has been paid to the problem of synergy, the capacity of one pollutant to worsen the effects of another.

The research gives quite an optimistic picture - in theory. The integrated Green approach makes problems cancel each other out. For instance, unemployed builders could build houses for the unemployed using council Capital Receipt funds. Why is this not done? The holdup lies in a Treasury accountancy quirk that shows the full cost of any publicly built house in this year's PSBR. Thousands of families suffer homelessness, and builders suffer unemployment because of bizarre accountancy methods in the Treasury. Moreover, the research has identified good work for 2 million people in the Green sector of the economy, and it proposes a method for gradual introduction of Basic Income by converting Income Support and UB into Wage Subsidy for work found or made in the Green sector.

We need no longer need make vague noises about the health benefits of implementing the M55. We have figures to back it up - and the figures are looking good.

Richard Lawson

## Radioactive pollution, bombs and cancer

### Radioactive pollution is responsible for thousands of deaths

The last 50 years have seen the release of a whole new range of substances to the living environment - radioactive isotopes, versions of elements, many of which exist in living tissues, which differ from the natural versions in that they are radioactive. Many of these substances, like Strontium 90 and Caesium 137, are now incorporated into the cells of every living creature, from Antarctica to Greenland, contaminating the bodies of Inuit and Bushmen alike. All inhabitants of the earth are victims of the biggest health scandal in history. We all have a significant burden of these man-made isotopes ticking away inside us like the alarm clock swallowed by the crocodile which menaces Captain Hook in Peter Pan.

This poses a serious threat to human health. These novel radioisotopes are not comparable to the natural radiation that life has had to contend with throughout evolution. Life has adapted to natural radiation by developing repair systems which can deal with the damage that is done to genetic material in cells, to DNA. Recent evidence shows that no such adaptation can exist for many of the man-made isotopes that were released when the first Los Alamos test of Uranium fission opened Pandora's box just prior to the use of atomic bombs on the Japanese people.

From the bombing of Hiroshima in August 1945 to the present day, the nuclear powers have developed and exploded a massive arsenal of weapons of appalling destructive capacity. They have also encouraged what they describe as peaceful uses of nuclear fission, involving the building and operating of nuclear power stations to generate electricity and create the Plutonium necessary for the continued production of their nuclear weapons.

#### What is radioactive pollution and what can we do about it?

The major illnesses in the developed world are now cancer, heart disease and immune diseases like AIDS and diabetes. It can be argued that these diseases share a common origin: genetic mutation. Recent research in Wales has discovered a source of this mutation and the major origin of the recent increase in Britain in the incidence of these diseases. It is shown to be low-level radiation resulting from the development of nuclear weapons and nuclear power.

The research shows that incident rates of cancers can be correlated with precipitation. In comparisons of areas where all other factors are similar - social stresses, lifestyle, diet, chemical pollution, etc., it is shown that areas of high rainfall correspond to similar high rates in the incidence of cancer. The example of

Wales and East Anglia is given, where the former has 2-3 times as much rainfall.

The significance of this becomes apparent when the patterns of cancer incidence are examined, taking into account the increased likelihood of cancer developing over time in the presence of carcinogens. In particular during the period of 1958 and 1963, when there was an orgy of nuclear bomb testing, high levels of global radioactive fallout in the atmosphere were washed out by rain. In Wales, official measurements show the population was exposed to 2-3 the radiation dose received by the population of England.

The peaks in fallout contamination in the period 1958-1963 caused immediate effects on infant mortality all over the world. By 1963 the international medical community had become alarmed by the build-up of radio-active isotopes in food and water and the increases in mortality occurring all over the world. They exerted pressure on Western governments to curb the testing.



Infant mortality rates were particularly high in Wales, indicating the existence of significant genetic damage occurring in the population. Twenty years later, the shape of the trend in increases of all cancer malignancies in Wales correlates with the earlier cumulative exposure to Strontium 90. Wales also has the highest level of breast cancer in the world and the rate correlates with exposure of women of childbearing age to the peak fallout of the same element.

Hence, fission produced pollution from global nuclear testing have caused genetic mutations in the population, presenting a legacy of misery and premature death for many of us and our descendants.

Resumption of French testing in the Mururoa Atoll in French Polynesia in September must be opposed at every level.

Research was carried out by the Low Level Radiation Research Unit of the Wales Green Party, headed by Dr. Chris Busby.

#### Malignant Growth in the NHS

Since 1950 the UK population has increased by 15%, with the number of people aged 75+ rising by over 100%. NHS expenditure rose from £300m per year to £35,000m, a 600% increase in real terms.

To help explain this situation we have two opinions from widely different sources: "At least half the present medical treatments are useless. The problem is that studies, which show what doesn't work, don't get published"

Dr Stuart Horner, Chair, BMA Ethics Committee  
"... upwards of 85% of conventional treatments are unproven"

Socialist Health Association.

The tragic situation facing the parents of the 10 year old girl with leukaemia earlier this year, with the refusal of the Health Authority to fund further treatment threw the whole thing into sharp focus: this scenario is bound to become ever more commonplace.

The decision not to fund the drugs and surgery was taken on clinical grounds but the decision would not have been taken as recently as a year ago: NHS Trust managers have finally realised that the NHS money pit is not bottomless.

Up till now treatments have been administered for reasons of tradition, dogma and, above all else, service to the Great God of Consensus Medicine. The fact that therapies have been known to be useless, dangerous or lethal has never been a barrier to approval. Now, an older more powerful deity, Mammon, has reawakened and asserted its authority.

The endless saturation of the environment with petrochemicals, the lethal British diet, the cavalier use of radiation, 50 million prescriptions annually for antibiotics; fluoride-waste dumping in drinking water, a vaccination rate of 95% plus will all ensure the remorseless increase of the cancer epidemic.

The UK cancer rate is now 40% and rising: 2 out of 5 people have, or will develop cancer. In a few years it will exceed 50% - one will be more likely to develop cancer than to avoid it.

The economic implications of cancer alone, and we have well over 20,000 other diseases, are horrific. The little girl's treatment will cost £75,000: one stage of one patient's regime and this a young child.

If every cancer patient cost the NHS £200,000 between diagnosis and death, this alone will empty the NHS account.

Unless the nation's cancer management and the whole of the NHS, for that matter, is soon taken off the incumbent medical restraints, we are facing a spectacular disease gridlock. The heretics know how to prevent and treat cancer, but even the orthodox cancer voices are ignored if they deviate: in 1975 America's leading cancer statistician told the cancer business empire their therapies killed the patient up to 4 times faster than the disease.

Ironically, 20 years and countless unnecessary deaths later, an unlikely player - the Mighty Dollar - could change sides and become our main ally, forcing politicians and academics to listen, when all else has failed.

Patrick Rattigan



# TRAFFIC

Choking our roads  
Choking our lungs  
Choking our countryside

## CHOKING OUR LIVES

### THE PROBLEM

**Everyone** is affected by traffic. It is damaging our health, ruining our towns, wrecking the economy, dividing communities and destroying the countryside. And it's going to get much worse. The Government has forecast that traffic will double in the next 30 years.

Building more roads does not relieve traffic congestion. It creates more traffic, pollution and noise - and leaves us, and the natural environment with less space. The Department of Transport's plans for Surrey and Hampshire will destroy more precious wildlife habitats and continue the urbanisation of our countryside.

We forget that the natural environment is our life support system. It provides us with oxygen to breathe, fresh water and food. Our quality of life depends on a healthy environment - and we are destroying it at a rate unprecedented in the history of mankind.

*It's all completely unnecessary! But if you want a better transport system and a clean future, you must take action!*

### STARTLING FACTS

- AIR POLLUTION:** When he was Secretary for the Environment Michael Howard MP admitted 'Road transport is the single most important threat to air quality.' Poisonous gases, cancer inducing particulates and corrosive chemicals from vehicle exhausts are destroying our health, wildlife, crops and buildings.
- ILL-HEALTH:** Traffic-polluted air aggravates respiratory and cardiovascular illness. Most at risk are children (to age 14 but especially under 5's), sufferers of asthma and other respiratory diseases (1 in 7 children have asthma - and rising, over 65's, pregnant women and the unborn).
- NOISE:** Day and night, over 50% of the population are exposed to noise levels exceeding World Health Organisation criteria. As exposure to noise increases, people become angry, aggressive, depressed, tired and frightened.
- ECONOMY & EMPLOYMENT:** Road building costs £6.3bn a year in lost work and other costs arising due to traffic accidents. The Freight Transport Association states 'Congestion results in a severe debasement of our economy and undermines our competitiveness in Europe'. Investment in public transport creates more jobs per pound than spent on building roads.
- CLIMATE CHANGE:** Greenhouse gases (especially CO2) from vehicle exhausts are a major contributor to global warming. The predicted growth in traffic will wipe out emission gains from other sectors.
- ENERGY USE:** Transport accounts for one third of energy consumption in the UK. Known reserves of oil are predicted to run out in 45 years.
- SOCIAL INEQUALITY:** 33% of households have no access to a car. 51% of women do not possess a driving licence. The decline in public transport and growth of traffic have rendered walking unsafe and unhealthy. Many elderly people have little chance of getting about.
- FEAR AND DANGER:** Most deaths and injuries occur on built up roads (40,000 children and 27,000 elderly in 1990). People are walking in fear or danger within their own communities.
- CRUMBLING COMMUNITIES:** Busy roads divide and destroy communities. The breakdown of health-promoting social support networks lead to psychiatric disorder, physical morbidity and mortality from all causes.
- VANISHING COUNTRYSIDE:** Road proposals for southern England alone are threatening nearly 600 important wildlife sites including 195 ancient woodlands.

### THE SOLUTION

There is only one, glaringly obvious solution - to reduce the level of traffic. There are many ways which do not need to restrict car ownership, and have been successfully implemented in other countries. Some provide motorists with alternative means to travel, whilst others reduce their need to travel.

The Green Party has teamed up with Friends of the Earth, to launch a Parliamentary Bill - The Traffic Reduction Bill, which has been introduced to the House of Commons by Plaid Cymru MP, Cynog Dafis. The Bill requires the Government and local councils to implement measures over a 15 year period which will first stabilise, and later reduce traffic by 10%. The measures include promotion of public transport, cycling and walking, and changes in the planning system to cut down the need to travel.

**Support the Traffic Reduction Bill** For it to succeed, MP's of all parties must be persuaded to vote support it in Parliament. For further details about traffic reduction, a copy of the Bill, and how you can help, contact: Melody Lovelace, The Green Party, 1a Waterlow Road, London N19 5NJ 0171 272 4474

#### WHY DO THEY KEEP BUILDING MORE ROADS?

The arguments against the road building programme are overwhelming. They know all the facts - even their own statistics confirm the futility and catastrophic effects of their policies. So why do they continue, even to the extreme of hiring detective agencies to spy on protesters, and changing the law to criminalise peaceful protests?

The reasons are not hard to find. The Government awards the multi-million road-building contracts to giant construction companies. These same companies are amongst the most generous donors to Party funds.

In addition, more MPs have consultancies and directorships with companies associated with the road lobby than any other industry. And finally, ex-Government transport ministers end up as directors on the boards of the same construction companies who build the roads.

In other words, the health, economy, environment - the very future of the country is being wrecked in order to keep the Government in power, in a circle of sleaze and corruption involving politicians and wealthy industrialists

### SPECIAL FEATURE - HEALTH

## Local Action Against Traffic Pollution

Joss James of AIRWATCH interviewed by Elaine Kennedy

Alarmed at the effects of increasing pollution from vehicle exhausts on the health of their families, a group of mothers decide to take action...

"It's really dramatically changed my life, having to take on board a major illness. For me, getting involved with the AIRWATCH campaign was a way of dealing with the anger."

Joss James is the Chair and a founder member of AIRWATCH, a group of about 25 local mothers and their children working to improve the air quality for their community. Joss is a mother of two, aged 3 and 5, who had been slightly asthmatic as a child, but she only suffered the full blown symptoms after the birth of her second child. Fortunately, neither of her children are affected.

"For the first 2 years after getting ill I spent 2 weeks out of every 6 unable to do anything."

The Ashden Trust Report (July 1994), "How Vehicle Pollution Affects our Health" tested all the individual components of pollutants from car exhausts. The study found direct links to ill health, specifically asthma, bronchial trouble, cancer and leukaemia. Islington has the highest level of asthma in the UK, according to Islington 2000, a local environmental group.

AIRWATCH's first campaign targeted the morning rush hour outside Tufnell Park tube station on May 19th, 1995. Drivers were leafleted about the effects of car fumes. Dozens of mothers and their children with AIRWATCH masks, tee shirts and balloons, good humouredly tried to get their message across to motorists. At one of the group's monthly meetings everyone had agreed "it should all be quite festive and not doom-laden."

The demonstration was televised on BBC's lunchtime edition of Newsroom South East. Time Out, Red Pepper and local free newspaper Camden New Journal all reported

on the day's events.

"It all started with a group of us who were either asthmatic or had asthmatic children."

Joss recalls the Tufnell Park Parents Support Group which gave birth to AIRWATCH.

"There were about 150 members. People would meet in each other's homes and produce a newsletter discussing local issues of concern to parents of young children."

The impetus to launch the new campaign came with the realisation that about every third or fourth had a child affected by asthma.

"We began with some open meetings with Jeremy Corbyn, our local MP, who's been extremely supportive."

So have Islington Council providing 2 grants to help fund their activities. Islington 2000 put on a seminar in October 1994 about the connection between asthma and the environment, during National Asthma Week.

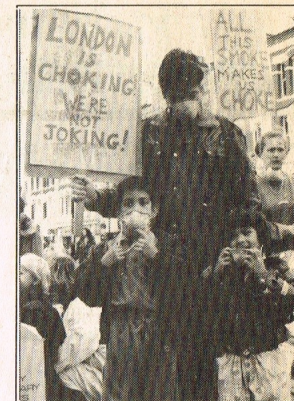
"Having a stall there forced us to say, OK, we are called so and so - this is what we stand for - this is our literature. AIRWATCH was launched"

Another area in which the group is involved is taking morning assemblies at local schools to inform the children about air pollution. Joss's 5 year son, Orlando already talks of 'foul disgusting air.'

"Most classes of 30 children have 3-5 asthmatics. When I did the first assembly at Yearbury Primary School which Orlando attends he was absolutely bursting with pride."

The children are asked about the various ways one can travel and to say which they consider to be good or bad. They are asked how they come to school. The vast majority walk.

London has one of the most expensive public transport systems in the world. Coincidentally(?), 2 or 3 weeks after the leafleting campaign, Steven Norris, Minister for Transport asked drivers to consider using the bus, bicycle or walking for short journeys.



Photograph by Elaine Kennedy

"I almost felt he'd been reading one of our leaflets! He could make it so much easier for people to use public transport and safer for cyclists."

Joss has no illusions. She is aware that AIRWATCH's influence is limited.

"Because of who we are and what we are capable of, our focus must be quite local. There are a number of national organisations working on air pollution. We need to be reminding people that it's up to us to make a difference."

How many people are aware of the fact that levels of pollutants building up inside a car in traffic can be much higher than they are on the street where it can disperse? The ventilation system may actually be drawing in the exhaust from the car immediately in front.

The aims of the AIRWATCH campaign are simple. A vision of the future Joss looks forward to.

"I'd like to be able to cycle safely around the local area. I'd like to be able to get in and out of London without fearing for my life; both through the air I'm breathing and the danger from traffic."

Not too much to ask for, is it?

#### ASTHMA FACTFILE

- It affects around 3 million people in the UK, including 750,000 children.
- The number of children with asthma has doubled since the 1970's.
- The condition now affects 1 child in 7.
- As many as 8.5 million school days are missed every year due to asthma.

Source: National Asthma Campaign

#### Contacts:

AIRWATCH Joss James 0171 609 1772  
National Asthma Campaign, Providence House,  
Providence Place, London N1 0NT  
The Ashden Trust, Red Lion Ct, London EC4



Photograph by Elaine Kennedy



## Success as Greens gain new territory and consolidate existing strongholds

### 100 Greens Elected!

**Despite - massive swing to Labour**  
**Despite - Green Party denied TV election broadcast**  
**Despite - minimal resources**  
**Greens did outstandingly well in all targeted areas**

The Green Party has been celebrating its gains in this May's local elections - with 15 councillors elected at District Council level, 8 of which were new seats. With around 90 Town, Parish and Community councillors elected, it was a significant step forward in local government representation for the Green Party.

About 700 Green candidates were fielded - the third highest total ever, with a record number in Wales. There were Greens seeking election to over a third of the Principal Local Authorities in England and half those in Wales, demonstrating widespread Green activity across the country. "Full slates" were fielded in Brighton, Oxford and Kirklees.

The Green Party only lost one seat - Marc Scheimann of Luton, who defected from Labour, valiantly tried to hold his seat, but the "Blair factor" proved too much. There were several near misses. Hoped for gains in Stroud, Oxford and Huddersfield came tantalisingly close. *Next time!* The average vote was about 5% (1 seat contests) and 9% (multiple seat contests), only marginally down on last year. Considering the huge swing to Labour resulting from the "Blair factor", there is reason for optimism that once the Blair-led bubble bursts the Green Party should forge ahead.

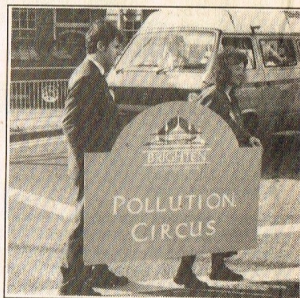
The biggest gains were in East Lindsey, Malvern Hills and South Shropshire where each District Council gained 2 new Green Councillors. Felicity Norman comfortably won a 2nd term in Leominster, with an increased majority, and John Peck was safely returned in Nottingham - his 2nd successful defence as a Green. Peter Christie also held his seat a 2nd time in Devon - and at the same time secured a 4th term on Bideford Town Council, of which he was formerly Mayor, and is now the senior Councillor (a fact which he says "makes me feel old").

Guy Woodford won in Malvern Hills for the 3rd time, romping home with over 80% of the vote after a last minute panic by his opponent - who issued a "Don't vote for me" leaflet at the last minute after his wife threatened to leave him if he got elected! At Town Council level, David Metcalfe kept it in the family by topping an 11 candidate poll in Tring, thereby taking over a seat from his brother! And on the Isle of Wight, Mark Burrows stood on a strong "boost the local economy" ticket, and has now been installed as Deputy Mayor.

### All year round campaigning

Getting elected is only part of the story. The actual campaigning is equally important, and Green Party activists have been campaigning hard all year round on a variety of issues, many leading into the local election campaigns themselves.

For example, a superbly run campaign against the building of a supermarket in Ludlow (on land recently purchased by the Council) no doubt contributed to the spectacular election of 2 District and 2 Town Councillors. In Newbury, a dramatic increase in Green Party candidates resulted from a close involvement



Green Party Principal Speaker, Jan Clark, supported the Brighton Greens' election campaign, helping to rename a local congestion and pollution blackspot, Preston Circus, POLLUTION CIRCUS. The local activists made an impressive sign, mimicking Brighton Council's own signs. Jan and Green candidate Pete West put up the sign during rush hour, and were met with sympathy from motorists and cyclists in particular (photo above). Pete came 2nd to Labour in the election, with an impressive 22%.

with the anti-bypass campaign. In Manchester, 11 Green Party candidates joined forces with 20 environmental campaigners to form the "Fresh Air Now" alliance focusing on the abysmal air quality in the City.

In Kirklees, vast amounts of "casework" resulting from year-round door-to-door canvassing has been dealt with and this has been backed up by some very creative campaigning that has constantly captured local newspaper headlines, got regional TV coverage and generally set the political agenda in the area. As a result, the vote has soared from 6% in 1992 to 40% this year, with a Labour majority slashed from 1,588 to just 183 in one year!

Elsewhere, campaigns built on the "local economy" theme developed during the European Elections, and some local Green Parties have taken practical steps to open a dialogue with and promote truly local businesses. Traffic and transport was the other big issue, with the UK Green Party's Road Traffic Reduction Bill up and running; whilst the impending duty of Councils to act on the Green Party's successful Energy Conservation Bill was also strongly featured.

In Aberystwyth the local party campaigned under the slogan "Don't be a Dinosaur!" and toured round the town in a Volvo festooned with posters and surmounted by a large inflatable Tyrannosaurus Rex stolen for the day from one of the kids, apparently! (photo left)



### Life on the District Council

The 2 new Greens on S. Shropshire D.C. tell of their first few weeks

Councillor John Lloyd writes:

*"It's hard to believe that only a month has gone by since the District elections. It is as if I've entered a different world - one dominated by paperwork, committees and meetings. It shouldn't have come as a surprise, but nevertheless it has. Still, it's enjoyable and rewarding work and within certain limits it looks as though I can bring a Green dimension to much of the Council's work."*

*"I have been voted onto the Housing, Health and Environment Committee, which is one of the 3 main ones on the Council, and already I can see scope for the Green Party to make its mark. In February we will be re-tendering the contract for domestic refuse collections and there must be scope for new ideas here - for example, separation at source for recycling or even bottle re-use. High on my list of on-going problems is that of local road improvements, traffic calming measures, etc.. The County Council tells me that no money is available for these, but I am taking this matter seriously and am trying to get it on the agenda."*

Councillor Tim Andrewes writes:

*"There are far more avenues for change on the District Council than I first envisaged. Individual councillors and council officers are very receptive to us as Greens and are open to our ideas. My first speech in committee (planning) about the proposed waste transfer station - and how waste, rather than transferring it, was the real problem - was well received. And 2 suggestions for making the Council more open are already being taken up."*

*"There has been more of a culture clash on other issues: being vegetarian has caused some problems for the catering staff (am I really the first vegetarian councillor in South Shropshire?), and sending back my car park security tag (because I don't have a car) has raised some eyebrows. But being a councillor means they have to take us and our views seriously; after all, we were elected by a majority of our constituents."*

*"I am hoping to get onto another committee as well as Planning, and I have been appointed to the Ludlow Traffic Management Working Group - opening up a Green front on one of the key issues in the town. In addition, I am already being contacted by people in my ward who need help on particular issues. There is so much to be getting on with, and I relish the challenge!"*



Photo: Left to right - Newly elected Green Councillors to East Lindsey D.C., Brian Burnett and Rosemary Robinson are congratulated by Jan Clark. On the far right is Cllr. Eddie Francis, who was re-elected to the same Council unopposed.

### Principal Speakers' Corner

#### Dirty Habits

A chance conversation recently highlighted to me the enormity of the task we face to achieve significant electoral success. After my appearance on Radio 4's Any Questions, the panel were invited to refreshments in the church hall.

A woman gave me a cup of tea and confided how much she had enjoyed the programme and how she agreed with everything I'd said. Thanking her, I said "I hope if you get the opportunity, you'll vote Green on May 4th."

A look of complete bemusement appeared on her face, as she tried to grapple with the link between what I'd said on the programme and voting Green; eventually she gave up and said, "but you spoke common sense."

Our success depends on finding the secret to allow all those who say they agree with us, but trot off and vote for another party, to change their voting habits and vote Green.

Jan Clark

### Green District & City Councillors

Breckland D.C., Norfolk  
East Lindsey B.C., Lincs.

Tony Park  
Eddie Francis  
Rosemary Robinson  
Brian Burnett  
Klaus Armstrong-Braun  
Jenny Haynes

Flintshire, Wales  
Glaford B.C., Humbs

Jan Clark  
Neil Jacques  
Felicity Norman  
Guy Woodford

Leominster D.C.  
Malvern Hills, D.C.

Ann Storey-Dav  
Chris Lennard  
John Peck

Notts City Council  
Oxford City Council  
Radnor D.C. Wales  
South Shropshire D.C.

Mike Woodin  
Kelvin Curry  
Tim Andrewes  
John Lloyd

Stroud D.C., Glos.

John Marjoram  
Sue Nicholson  
Lesley Greene  
Simon Pickering  
Peter Christie  
Frank Williamson  
Rosey Knifton

Torridge D.C., Devon  
West Devon D.C.  
Woodspring D.C., Avon

Alan Toothill  
Roger Giles  
Phil Foggitt  
Sherwood Elcock

Green Independents  
East Devon D.C., Devon

Salisbury City Council

We also have one Green Party County Councillor in Oxfordshire (Caroline Lucas) and another sitting as an independent in Devon.



### The Unitary Councillor

Wales switched completely to Unitary Authorities this year, and Klaus Armstrong-Jones became the first Green to be elected under the new system. The changes resulted in a reduced number of seats, and Labour became embroiled in a squabble over candidate selection, which resulted in their Agent failing to submit the 2 official candidates, nominating himself as an Ind. Labour. He then withdrew amidst the predictable furore, leaving 3 candidates in the 2 vacancy contest. The result was GREEN 452, IND 361, LD 290.

Klaus is currently on a 10 week expedition to Vietnam with FRONTIER, the voluntary conservation exploration society.

### COMMENT

#### GREEN WORLD SAYS... Local Elections, May 1995

It was a remarkable result for the Green Party, and above all demonstrated the enormous potential for Green Politics to establish itself in local government across the country. The successes and near misses were achieved through the efforts of a relatively small number of people. They focused on specific target areas, and ensured that everyone in those areas was exposed to the Green agenda. And Greens were elected!

In other words, once the Green message has got through to people, and the false perceptions they hold about Greens fed to them by the media and our opponents have been dispelled, Green candidates become hot favourites. The level of success is limited purely by the small size of the party, and its number of activists.

The Party must expand. The Green Movement is full of highly motivated, energetic activists who share its basic beliefs, but shy away from politics. The Green Party offers the best way to promote the changes so urgently needed. Engaging in politics for the Green cause is not some kind of "if you can't beat, join them" sell-out, but is actually a case of "beating them at their own game!"



# Agenda 21

## The Meaning of Sustainable Development

### AGENDA 21 WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

At the Earth Summit in Rio, 1992, 108 countries (including the UK) signed three main agreements: the Biodiversity Convention, the Climate Change Convention and Agenda 21.

Agenda 21 was the most significant outcome of the Summit. In a nutshell, Agenda 21 instructs every local authority to produce a plan - a Local Agenda 21 - to alleviate poverty in ways that do not harm the environment. The 600 pages Agenda 21 document can be summarised in 2 words - Sustainable Development. But the definition of sustainable development is absolutely crucial - it has already been much abused by government and industry as an excuse for business as usual.

Some consider linking the word 'sustainable' with 'development', which so often refers to environmentally destructive construction schemes, as a total contradiction of terms. But development need not be like that. Sustainable development may be defined exactly as stated above, i.e. the alleviation of poverty (development) in ways that do not harm the environment (sustainability). Simple, unambiguous, and very powerful.

### SOCIAL INEQUITY AND THE ENVIRONMENT

There are four main sections to Agenda 21:

- 1 Social and Economic Dimensions:** includes health, poverty, demographics, trade and consumption.
- 2 Conservation and management of resources for development:** how land, seas, energy and waste can be managed.
- 3 Strengthening the role of major social groups:** details how all people should be involved in the process, with special consideration to be given to disadvantaged groups.
- 4 Means of implementation:** Includes education, promotion and transfer of information and technology, training and public awareness. Funding is also covered in this section.

Note the mix of environmental issues and those concerning social inequity. The Government and most councils addressing Agenda

21 have focused on purely environmental matters. The Green Party has long since recognised the inter-dependency of environmental and social issues, and to its credit, the Agenda 21 document puts great emphasis on the relief of poverty and homelessness through community initiatives and low impact dwellings. Clearly by signing Agenda 21, the Government has endorsed a programme at odds with its own draconian ideology - but one it is obliged to keep. One of our tasks must be to constantly highlight what the Government has agreed to.

By signing up for Agenda 21, the Government has unwittingly endorsed the aims and beliefs of the Green Party. We now have a unique opportunity to promote our cause with official backing!

### LOCAL AGENDA 21 (LA21)

Two thirds of the targets laid down in Agenda 21 can be achieved locally, with the cooperation of local authorities and communities. Chapter 28 calls for all local authorities to produce a Local Agenda 21 plan by 1996. Although not legally bound to do so, most will be writing a document. Its importance and influence will depend on the degree to which people are involved.

An LA 21 must cover all the issues that affect the quality of life of a community: from the hole in the ozone layer to homelessness, from under age drinking to water pollution.

Agenda 21 calls for local authorities to "enter into dialogue with its citizens" to learn what needs to be done. It states that community groups - businesses, TU's, pressure groups and individuals should come together to discuss local needs.

Local authorities all over the country are hurriedly employing LA 21 Officers with the idea that these people can "empower the community" and produce an LA 21 alone. Unfortunately most of these officers have come from a local authority background and

have never had to ask people what they really want. They are finding this initial, but vital consultation stage much harder than they had expected. The process involves bringing together a diverse collection of groups with very different ideas. Breaking barriers between them is essential, to produce a local community action plan involving the entire community.

Every LA 21 should be different according to the way each local authority gets the community involved. What works in one area will not necessarily work in another - there is no single right way to do it.

### STEPS TOWARDS PRODUCING A LA21

Before you can say what you need to improve your community you have to find out what you already have. In a method used by the London Ecology Centre, a blank map of the area is acquired. Using coloured dots, all the health food shops, recycling bins, derelict buildings, care centres, etc. are marked down. You can then easily assess what you have, the geographical spread and areas that need more facilities.

The most exciting thing about Agenda 21 is its emphasis on citizen participation. The more people involved in the process and the more consensus that is reached, the stronger the final document will be. That is the beauty of Agenda 21; it is different from the decision making processes that local authorities used in the past. It promises to create empowered communities unafraid to do things for themselves, whilst councils should get a better feel for what people want, and see their role as enabling them to do it.

### LOCAL AUTHORITY PROGRESS

Whilst some councils are forging ahead with LA21, others are really dragging their feet. In a recent survey of the 541 councils in the country, only 303 responded. Of these, 71% claimed to be committed to the LA21 process, and 80% of those had staff working on it. It's probable that all those who didn't respond had much less positive stories to tell.

The Government is putting a high profile on Agenda 21, to try and improve its badly tarnished

environmental record. But its past record puts serious doubt on its genuine commitment. However, it's up to us to pressurise both central and local government to live up to the promises they are making, and not let them use Agenda 21 as an empty propaganda tool to enhance their image at election times.

### PUBLIC AWARENESS

A cross Devon Green Party survey revealed that 83% of Devon people had not heard of the Local Agenda 21 process, but 87% would like to learn more about it.

As part of the LA21 process, Devon people, with the help of Devon County Council, have set up a series of working groups that involve people from all streams of life. The groups that are now operating are Transport & cleaner air, water, agriculture land use & food, sustainable economy, waste, nature, energy and community.

Green Party's Don Allen: "We have obviously got a long way to go in raising awareness on Agenda 21. We need all the help that the local press and radio can give us."

It is vital as many people as possible are involved in the process, to make LA21 a success. It is not like the Local Government Reorganisation scheme, where it made little difference what they said internally. This is important!

Agenda 21 is pure Green Party policy. all about uniting communities to work together to develop a fair and sustainable society.

### LA21 NETWORK

The success or failure of Agenda 21 will rest ultimately with the decision makers. However, they will be influenced by the level of activity and interest coming from the local community. Local Green Parties can play a vital role in the process. There will be a regular Agenda 21 spot in Green World from now on. Tell us how your LA21 is progressing - share any interesting initiatives - your success and failures, so we all may benefit from each others' experiences. Contact:

LA 21 Network  
MARTHA BRETT,  
115 GREYHOUND RD,  
LONDON N17 6XR  
TEL: 0181 801 5577

Martha Brett



### Road Traffic Reduction Bill

Following the success of the Energy Conservation Bill, the Green Party has teamed up with Friends of the Earth to tackle the much harder task of reducing road traffic.

Next year is the Centenary Year of the Car, and the motor industry is planning a mega-advertising extravaganza to celebrate 100 years of motoring, and give the car a much needed boost in morale. They will be extolling all the wonderful benefits it has brought to modern society. NOT IF WE CAN HELP IT!

The Road Traffic Reduction Bill will provide the perfect vehicle (good pun, eh?) for the Green movement front foot the Motor Industry. With each campaign they come up with, we will counter-attack with our own, with themes like '100 years of the car - end of an era'. If you come up with any good, imaginative ideas, pass them on to the Campaigns team.

Cynog Dafis introduced the Bill to Parliament in April, saying, "The Bill, which has been prepared by the Green Party and Friends of the Earth has, as its starting point, the imperative of moving towards environmental sustainability - but it also has important social, economic & health implications."

FOE Director Charles Secrett declared that: "Enough is enough. We must create cities for people again, where streets are safe and pleasant to walk and the air is clean to breathe. If enough people get behind the Bill, we can overthrow the tyranny of cars and lorries."

And so a massive effort aiming to mobilise a million people and 5000 local organisations has begun. We need everyone to take part. If you have not received the latest briefing - Traffic Reduction File 2, and support form, send a request for them now to:

Melody Lovelace, The Green Party, 1a Waterloo Road, London N19 5N  
0171 272 4474

### Energy Conservation Bill Next Steps

The Green Party's Energy Conservation Bill, is now an Act, and comes into effect from April 1996. Having put so much into getting the Bill accepted, it is essential that we ensure that the Government honours its commitment, and local authorities implement the new legislation.

The Act requires local authorities to assess the energy efficiency of all homes in their area and draw up local energy conservation plans. The original proposals obliged councils to identify energy savings of up to 30%, but this target was removed after objections from the Government at Committee Stage.

However, the Minister for Energy Efficiency gave assurances that he would instruct councils to set such targets. Those assurances must be upheld - it is vital that the Act has teeth if it is to bring the enormous environmental, social and economic benefits it offers. As well as cutting emissions of carbon dioxide, the main greenhouse gas, energy efficiency measures will reduce fuel bills, improve living conditions, make industry more competitive and create thousands of jobs.

Britain currently wastes a fifth of its fossil fuel and electricity use and could cut £10 billion a year off the nation's collective fuel bill. However, current regulations controlling the gas and electricity industry encourage energy consumption rather than conservation. By providing a national energy 'map' for the UK, the Home Energy Conservation Act is an important step on the road to energy efficiency. Local authorities must be persuaded to take the initiative and include in their energy conservation plans a target of at least 30% for cutting energy waste.

The first phase of the Bill, where energy conservation plans are drawn up, will start in April 1996. By then Local Parties will need to be fully briefed on the requirements of the new law, and what their councils are required to do. Policy and Campaigns will provide briefings and information to this effect. Meanwhile, Local Parties can initiate the process by ensuring their local councils are fully aware of the forthcoming Act, and leave them in no doubt that local Greens will be monitoring their activities in this matter.

### VAT on Energy Bill

Unlike the Energy Conservation Bill, this is not Green Party initiated, however, it is one of our current campaign issues, and has our full support. Local Green Parties can also get publicity by promoting it on the back of the Energy Conservation Act. Most important of all, it's another important issue that deserves our attention.

Officially called the Energy Saving Materials (Rate of VAT Bill), the supporting Early Day Motion (EDM 383) explains: 'To reduce VAT on energy saving materials to 8%, the same as it is for fuel.' It now enjoys the support of nearly 300 MPs in the House of Commons - just short of half the House (326). When half of all MPs have signed, we can make green taxation a real issue in Parliament.

At present, the VAT rate on fuel in the domestic sector is less than the VAT on fuel saving (17.5%). A bag of coal or central heating oil attracts VAT at 8% whilst loft insulation or solar panels for water are rated at 17.5%. This makes no sense as it encourages waste and penalises those people, especially those on lower incomes, who invest in energy-saving materials in order to keep their homes warm.

Alan Simpson MP (Labour, Nottingham South), who works closely with and enjoys the confidence of his local Green Party, has introduced the Bill to parliament. He has been joined by Plaid MP Cynog Dafis, Michael Colvin and Sir John Hannam (Con), Michael Clapham (Lab) and Diana Maddock (Lib Dem).

They have tabled Early Day Motion No. 383 in support of the Bill. Please urge your MP to sign EDM 383 and get your local council to support the Bill.

To find out if your local MP has signed, and for further information, contact:

Association for the Conservation of Energy  
9 Sherlock Mews  
London W1M 3RH  
Tel: 0171 935 1495  
Fax: 0171 935 8346



Association for the Conservation of Energy

### Green Youth Network

All in one room, all talking about one thing - the voice of young people in the Green Movement today.

Representatives from the Green Party, Greenpeace, Woman's Environmental Network, Activ88, Christian Aid, Campaign Against the Arms Trade, Youth CND, Vegetarian Society, Youth Agenda 21 and several "youth contacts" got together to discuss the future for a new youth network. The message from the younger people present was clear: we want to be involved, just give us the tools and information.

Having established common goals and values (a refreshingly clear and painless process, co-operation is an area young people might have the much to offer), we moved on to the practicalities.

Ideas flooded in: a publication with information on campaigning groups and charities, and a forum for discussion; training in public speaking, presentation skills, using the media and one's rights to protest; local groups to provide support and training; a central networking office, to put young people in touch with other working in similar areas, etc.

The energy is flowing and future meetings are arranged. We are looking for more young people to join in. The meetings will be held in London, but if you want to start up a group in your area, then go ahead and do it! We can put you in touch with anyone else in your area who has shown an interest.

For more information contact: Peter Merry, 41 Haringey Park, London N8 9JD  
Tel: 0181 348 0294

### ecoplasma European Youth Greenzine order a free copy now

The Federation of Young European Greens is launching a new magazine - ecoplasma. Aimed at becoming a major channel of discussion among young Euro-Greens, it will be available in English and French.

Articles by young Greens, and material by experts in the field will be included, plus letters, exchange of ideas, projects, news, events, etc. The first issue of ecoplasma centres around the theme "A Green Vision for Democracy - Europe in the 21st Century".

For more information and/or a free issue of ecoplasma contact: Peter Merry (see above)



## First Green Government Minister in Western Europe

The Finnish Greens have become the first Green Party in the West to be part of a national government.

As reported briefly in last issue of GW, the Finnish Green League got 6.5% of the vote, and 9 M.P.s in the general election in March. There have been exciting developments since: a "rainbow government" was formed, consisting of the Social Democrats, Conservatives, the Left Wing Alliance, the Swedish Party, and the Greens! Pekka Haavisto, chair of the Green League, became Minister of the Environment and Overseas Development, and thus the first Green to hold government office in Western Europe (if you exclude an Italian who was a minister for 24 hours!).

In the negotiations to form the government, the Greens managed to persuade the other parties on several key issues in all sections of the government's programme. Notably: new steps will be taken towards green tax reform, increasing environmental taxes and reducing taxes of income and labour. Critical evaluation is promised of the planned hydropower project at the Vuotos reservoir in Lapland, long opposed by the Greens.

This was achieved against a background of appalling economic difficulties in Finland, with unemployment at 20% and a plummeting GNP, and certainly puts a new perspective on the assertion we have all heard, that green politics is a luxury for when things are going well!

## German Greens' Regional Coalition

In Germany's biggest federal state, Nordrhein-Westfalen, governed from Düsseldorf, and including the Ruhr, the Greens have formed a coalition with the Social Democrats.

An early triumph for the Greens is the postponement of a proposed new open-cast lignite mine. Despite dire threats from the miners, the mine will not be started until 2006, and only then if the energy is needed. In the meantime, they are going to pursue energy efficient measures, to make sure it isn't!

## Million Green Votes in France

In the first round of voting for a new French President, the Green candidate, Dominique Voynet, won 1,011,373 votes, or 3.32% of valid votes cast.

## Euro Greens prepare for IGC

The Green Group in the EP and the European Federation of Green Parties had an initial meeting at the beginning of April, where it became clear that there are differences of opinion between Green parties about various aspects of Euro policy, especially economics.

This was followed up at the Council meeting of the Federation held in June in Budapest, at which a 25 page consultation document was tabled. All the parties of the Federation, including our own, will be working on this document during the summer, and there will be a workshop and another council meeting before the end of this year. The first congress of the Federation will be held in June 1996, by which time the Greens of Europe

## EUROPEAN GREEN PARTIES

should have come up with a common position for the IGC.

This is a difficult process, but a stimulating one. It is always good to bounce ideas off other people who are coming from a Green background, but from a different tradition. European policy will be a major theme of the autumn conference with some good speakers and stimulating workshops. Sharpen your brains and bring them along.

## English, Irish, Welsh and Scots Greens

The 3rd meeting of the Greens parties of Scotland, Ireland, Wales and England (and the Channel Islands!) will take place at the Southport conference. We hope to see large numbers of our friends from sister parties.

## GREENFAX

NEWS BRIEFS FROM THE GREEN GROUP IN THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

Highlights of the 12-16 June 1995 Plenary Session in Strasbourg from Diana Johnstone in Brussels (Editor's note: This is a small extract from a typical GREENFAX report, a regular news service that tells us everything our Green MEPs are doing. It can be found on Greenet at: [gnp@gnp.europa.eu](mailto:gnp@gnp.europa.eu) or contact the author.)

The session was set to be dominated by preparations for the Cannes Council. Then came President Chirac's bombshell: announcement that France would resume its nuclear testing in the Pacific.

## NUCLEAR TESTS

At Green instigation, an urgent resolution asking France to maintain its moratorium on nuclear testing was already on the agenda when news came of Chirac's "irrevocable" decision. The text was hastily amended to express shock (an amendment by Otto von Habsburg (CSU, Bavaria) to soften outrage to "regret" was voted down in plenary) and ask France to reconsider. Patricia McKenna (Ireland) said the text was not strong enough: we were appalled and disgusted at this decision coming so soon after extension of the Non-Proliferation Treaty.

Now France was sending out a message that would encourage countries that don't have nuclear weapons to develop them. For Ireland, there could be no common defense policy with a country whose attachment to nuclear weapons had already led it to engage in international terrorism against the Rainbow Warrior. Ms McKenna said she thought the European Parliament should boycott Strasbourg and meet in Brussels so long as France was carrying out nuclear tests. Wilfried Telkaemper (Germany) also protested that France's nuclear policy would be forced even on neutral countries within the framework of a common foreign and security policy, and particularly blamed France for shoving off the future costs and problems caused by these tests on the peoples of the South Pacific.

An unusually sharp exchange took place when French Gaullist Jean-Claude Pasty called Commissioner Martin Bangemann to order for having criticized the national sovereignty argument used by France. Patricia McKenna jumped up to retort that France could not first influence the common policy on the NPT, and then turn around and claim that France's decision to jeopardize this policy was a purely national affair that could not be discussed as an EU matter.

Earlier, responding to Commissioner Van den Broek's oral reply to her written question on

the effect of the NPT on EU policy, Nuala Ahern (Ireland) called the decision "a shattering blow to the Non-Proliferation Treaty signed less than a month ago in New York" and said this was a "day of shame for the French Presidency". In a further exchange, expressing justified outrage on behalf of her constituents and on behalf of the Parliament, she got Commissioner Van den Broek to concede that he "shared those emotions".

## CANNES COUNCIL

Bosnia dominated debate on the forthcoming Council meeting in Cannes; other main issues were employment, economic policy, the forthcoming Mediterranean conference...

## \* BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA

Alexander Langer (Italy) told the plenary that instead of the positive change Europeans had been hoping for, a change coming from Europe, the change had come from Karadzic and Mladic, with the bombardment of Tuzla and seizure of UN soldiers as hostages. This unwanted change obliged Europe to change its policy, and this should be a major subject in Cannes. Obviously the hostages had to be freed if the UN was to have any future at all. He stressed three points:

1 - The United Nations mandate must be reinforced as to content, means and men. Attacks on UN soldiers must be prevented, but it will scarcely do for the UN to be strengthened merely to protect the UN's own soldiers. It must also look after the security zones, guarantee access to besieged cities and prevent constant resumption of hostilities in the field.

2 - A fresh effort at mediation and negotiation is called for. We are not enthusiastic about the choice of Carl Bildt to replace Lord Owen, and would have preferred a personality such as Socialist MEP Mendiluce. Still, this new start is an opportunity at long last to involve the peace forces in ex-Yugoslavia and not only the warlords. The "fundamental demarkation line" is not between Serbs, Croats, and Moslems, but between those who want to live together and those who practice ethnic cleansing.

3 - We should make "a credible and generous proposal of integration: first of all open to Bosnia-Herzegovina the doors of the European Union right away and exceptionally, then propose the same thing to all the States of ex-Yugoslavia". By 205 to 163, Parliament adopted a Green amendment calling the idea of a UN retreat from Bosnia-Herzegovina "totally unacceptable", because it "would imply completely giving up the idea of peace-keeping or peace-restoration, and would open the way to a further escalation of the war". But this warning was blurred by another amendment, adopted 197 to 194, saying that if it should prove impossible for the UN to remain, "Bosnia-Herzegovina must be provided with the means of self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter", thus moving toward endorsement of the US Congress position in favor of lifting the arms embargo. The final vote on the resolution was 205 to 22, but with 172 abstentions.

Three amendments tabled by Alexander Langer on behalf of the Green Group were rejected. One expressed deep shame at the failure of EU, OSCE and UN policies and called EU Member States jointly responsible for the crimes committed; another endorsed the June 26 demonstration in Cannes under the slogan "Europe dies or is reborn in Sarajevo"; and the

## THE EUROPEAN UNION - GREEN ALTERNATIVES

# Future of the European Union

## Mean and Lean - or Green...

The Maastricht vision of a Europe run purely on short-term economic considerations promises increasing social deprivation and environmental degradation. Political parties from left, right and centre all basically support this dogmatic monetarist approach which puts industrial interests first. The Greens represent the only major force proposing a radically different programme - one which offers sustainability, justice, and hope for all the citizens of Europe.

The Maastricht Treaty pre-conditions for European Monetary Union are the only agreed basis for future European integration at present. All other plans are of minimal importance since Monetary Union is the foundation upon which all else will rest. A number of specific criteria for monetary union include similar inflation rates and borrowing levels and a period of membership of the narrow band of the European exchange rate mechanism. These are all monetarist criteria which curiously have the support of conservatives, liberals, socialists and social democrats throughout the EU.

The prospect of a Frankfurt-based European Central Bank setting public spending levels in EU member states, as envisaged in the Maastricht Treaty, should be viewed as a nightmare. After the experience of the Common Agricultural Policy, citizens of Europe should be sceptical about the ability of the EU to deliver any policy without gross inefficiency, corruption and waste.

One major reason for this is that the European Union is not a bloated bureaucracy but a group of 13-14,000 people mainly chosen for linguistic skills. This is roughly one-third of the number of people employed by Kent County Council. The EU's bureaucrats are not up to the tasks afforded them, leaving the field of decision-making open to powerful industrial lobby groups. Most notable is the European Round Table of Industrialists, architects of the Single Market, Trans European Networks and much of the Maastricht Treaty.

With no political will to fund an effective bureaucracy, there is little likelihood of effective policy operation by EU institutions. Even less likely is their capture by humanitarian and environmental concerns. The EU's neo-liberal or laissez faire capitalist ideology reflects the overwhelming role of industrial interests.

Current and future common social policies and environmental policies will suffer from the unwillingness of many EU states to reduce sovereignty still further, or to give money for the running of effective policies. Therefore, appreciable reform of the EU may not be possible until the broad international political coalition supporting the Maastricht Treaty and the Single European Market dissolves.

## The Green Approach

### A Europe of Regions

A Europe of Regions with a considerable autonomy from current national governments is the preferred option of the European Green parties and the regionalist and nationalist parties of the non-racist variety like Plaid and the SNP. The region as a unit could have powers in areas like education, health, social services, regional economic development, transport and share such powers with local government.

A region is an adequate unit for the long-term development of organic agriculture and of local food production for local consumption, a key concern in reducing the transport of food and cutting this contribution to greenhouse gases.

Democratically, the acute feeling of powerlessness many European citizens clearly feel could be addressed by regional and local representatives having greater responsibilities. It could well reduce the frustrations which have driven up the votes for racist parties in many countries. Regionalism is not an automatic cure for the ills of Europe, but it might help in the alleviation of many problems.

A Europe of Regions does not need a unitary definition. Green Party policy gives people the choice of defining regions through referenda. Thus we would decide on regions from the bottom up, not the EU down.

### Green Economics

Economic barriers to regional and local economic development are substantial. The free movement of capital ensures that money made in one place rarely stays in it. Healthy local and regional economies are difficult to envisage without controls over capital movements; decentralisation of large-scale public and private sector bodies; community based banking systems to favour the growth and maintenance of locally-based enterprises; rational resource use planning over long periods to help stabilise employment and protect the environment; environmental and social accounting standards designed to favour sustainability of the ecosphere, the enterprise and employment; local income tax levels determined within the region, preferably at local government level. Despite these problems, the severe public disillusion with politics and political solutions must be addressed by moving the political and economic system nearer to the citizen, or there is a risk of further gains by the far right in European politics.

### Industrial Conversion

By greening trade, and attaching human rights considerations to trade agreements, the EU can have enormous influence in pressing countries to adopt sustainable development as an objective. This is not an easy process for the EU since it implies ending the role of the EU in

arms sales and the export of dubious pesticides and herbicides, as examples, to allow sustainability to be possible everywhere. Changing trade consequently implies a process of industrial conversion in each state, preferably orchestrated within each region. One step towards this would be to adopt national resource accounting techniques as Norway has already done, to assess the resource base of particular regions for the future.

### Public Transport

Public transport development, although properly the concern of national, local and regional governments in Europe, is critical to radical political change towards a sustainable future. Without a massive transfer of goods from road to rail and inland waterways, and without a decline in private car use, the consequences of further global warming will ruin any hopes for the future and reduce politics to a Canute-like exercise of holding back the waves during the next century.

Cross country road-building, like that envisaged as part of the Trans European Networks, must cease; all possible alternatives to car use must be utilised to cut greenhouse gas emissions in industrialised states by up to 80% within the next few decades. Such a cut will help to compensate for growth in emissions by poorer countries, although we should also be helping them towards energy-efficiency.

### Environmental Framework

Compared to such concerns, the current debates about the Inter Governmental Conference of 1996 ignore the most important issues. The environment is not an issue amongst other issues, it is the framework within which all our aspirations have to be met. The adoption of a few greenish policies by the conservative, socialist, social democratic and liberal parties in the European Union is quite inadequate. There is no urgency in their approach and too many of their representatives favour environment-destroying forms of development.

Absorbed in the neo-liberal agenda of Maastricht, these parties offer no way out of the problems they have created. If there is hope, it will come from the Greens and all other radicals who reject the Maastricht vision of a Europe run purely on short-term economic considerations.

Steve Dawe

Steve Dawe gave a talk in a seminar on subsidiarity and accountability which formed part of the "1996 and all that" Citizens Forum on Europe. This article was adapted from the talk.



# The Greens of Georgia

## GREEN WORLD EXCLUSIVE

Niki Kortvellyessy in Georgia  
Interviewed by Kathy Moss

Imagine a Green Party that, within a few years of setting up, was a vital element in a coalition Government, negotiating foreign policy and passing tough environmental measures. Now imagine an energy crisis, civil war, a failing economy, and mass unemployment.

Niki Kortvellyessy, Speaker for the European Federation of Green Parties does not need to imagine - she visited the former Soviet republic of Georgia where Greens are coping with just such a situation.

Despite coverage of the recent civil war, most British people are unlikely to know much about Georgia, except perhaps that it was Stalin's homeland. But Greens everywhere should study the country closely, as it is that rarest of things, a nation in which the Green Party is in government.

The ruling coalition includes Green advisers - their equivalent of ministers. Greens negotiate foreign policy, and have to make impossible choices, balancing present against future good, in a country traumatised by war and hardship, where industry has shrivelled, people die of cold in winter through fuel shortage and the black market is the only thriving sector of the economy.

Niki flew from Prague to join fellow European Federation Committee members in the capital Tbilisi in June, 1995. She explained:

"The Committee of the Federation has the task of visiting and providing support for member parties; therefore, we do not have a seat, a home. We meet once every two months at the invitation of the member parties."

**Greens are largest group elected in first free elections**

Georgia has many neighbours - Russia, Chechnya, Turkey, Armenia and Azerbaijan - but it is isolated by its mountainous landscape and peculiar language. Its climate, claimed Niki, "out-Mediterranean the Mediterranean" (and the Greens are keenly aware of the related tourist potential - and its drawbacks.) It was Christian before Russia and has its own orthodox church, but manages a peaceable co-existence of Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths. Unfortunately, as happened elsewhere in the Soviet empire, borders in the region were rearranged by Stalin to form a complex of new and ethnically divided states "enabling him at any time to foment dissent".

## Greens called to Office during Civil War

Georgia provided the era of perestroika with one of its main players - Gorbachov's former foreign minister Eduard Shevardnadze is Georgian and came to play a major role in the country's independent government. Georgia opted for secession fairly early and its first free elections were held in 1991. Eleven members of the youthful Green party - founded only two years earlier in a firmly environmentalist mould - were among the 150 people elected to the state parliament. Amazingly, they were the largest group among the plethora of tiny parties that sprang up in reaction to the loss of the one-party state.

The premier, Zviad Gamsakhurdia, elected in 1991, pursued a nationalist line so aggressive that it quickly led to chaos. He portrayed Russia as a likely aggressor - in spite of its placid acceptance of secession - and armed the entire population. The result, when his own party of nationalists divided, was civil war, which, although localised, destabilised the whole country. Small-time "leaders" declared their localities sovereign turf and demanded customs payments at gunpoint.

**Greens should study the country closely, as it is that rarest of things, a nation in which the Green Party is in government.**

Shevardnadze was called out of post-imperial retirement in 1992 as the only man who could deal with the situation. Once his appointment as Chairman of the Council had been validated in an election, he invited the Green group - now swelled to 16 by changes in the allegiance of five sitting members - to become part of a coalition government. Currently the Environment, Foreign Affairs and Defence advisors - as well as the highly influential head of Shevardnadze's staff - are Greens.

The civil chaos was contained by dealing with the main protagonists in one of three ways. Niki was told: "Some of them we put in jail, some we bought off, others we invited to join us in Parliament." Interestingly, this was not, Niki explained, the beginning of the Greens' governmental responsibilities, as the very loose administrative arrangements of 1991 meant that political groups in parliament could exert influence without necessarily holding formal office.

It was in that peculiar atmosphere that one of the Greens' most controversial decisions was carried out - one that they stand by but whose repercussions could be disastrous for them politically.

## Green policies for long-term cause hardship and dissent

On paper, they made the right, green decision in rejecting a Russian offer of a multi-billion rouble showcase hydroelectric plant in the mountains, which would have meant extensive flooding of valleys. They requested instead 10% of the cost to pay for modernising their existing hydroelectric stations. The response from Russia was a withdrawal of all offers of help. Over the next few years, as the energy and economic crises worsened following Russian disinvestment, that decision was bitterly regretted by many. Gas supplies could not be replenished at Russia's market prices and in the winter of 1994 people died of cold for lack of an alternative. The Greens have also since been responsible for negotiating a German loan which, it is to be hoped, will pay for the desired modernisation of generating plant, and avert a similar disaster this winter. The damage to the Greens could be serious. Niki and her fellow committee members found many ordinary people thought of the Greens as "the people who cut off our electricity".

The conflict between the Greens' long-term priorities and people's day-to-day fight for survival cropped up repeatedly in Niki's account. Another Green initiative had been the setting up of the eco-police - a specialised branch of law enforcement dealing with offences such as unlicensed mineral prospecting and the cutting down of trees. One officer - a former PhD student - was uncomfortable about the tree-felling issue, which again centres largely on the need for domestic fuel. He did not relish giving "someone who is freezing in a country house a lecture about the erosion and flooding that will come next year, when he wants to be warm tonight."

Another important environmental decision was the banning of trade in toxic waste from "clean" countries such as Germany and Switzerland. Wherever Georgia gets its foreign currency, it will not be from that. While such environmental policy lines are stringently applied, a blind eye is turned to some infringements, because the authorities know that without, for example, black marketeers selling potentially unsafe fuel oil from tankers by the roadside, the economic wheels would cease to turn altogether.

**Refugees - victims given homes in high rise hotels**

Without Russia's investment and markets Georgia cannot earn foreign currency. The various "mafia", however, can bring in essential commodities. Niki described once grand department stores now occupied by stalls selling miscellaneous items; a suit, toothpaste, chewing gum. Yet their proprietors, paying rent for their pitches, were prosperous in comparison to the middle-class women offering pairs of shoes or flat-irons in the street.

## The Greens of Georgia

(continued)

Unanticipated expenses requiring extra cash can include urgent medical treatment. Hospitals provide a bed and medical advice - but families do the nursing and must buy medicines. Niki's and her colleagues' queries about who made provision for homelessness and indigence were met with incomprehension - families and neighbours help each other routinely. People already living in cramped housing take in distant relations and neighbourhoods join in repair work on dilapidated or collapsed housing.

That positive approach can be seen on a larger scale in the Georgian authorities' response to the refugee crisis that followed Russian fomenting of conflict in Abkhazia, a largely Muslim "autonomous republic" in the north-west of Georgia. In the ensuing civil war of 1992-3 over its intention to become part of Russia, a third of a million Georgians left. All have been housed in Georgia proper - largely in the high-rise hotels to which tourists no longer come. People from rural areas have been given land, something relatively easy to organise in a country where previously the state owned everything. Representatives of the refugees - mainly women, as men either perished or stayed behind - deeply impressed Niki with their practical self-help, and with their accounts of the atrocities that had been committed. Knowing that the western press was unlikely to give much attention to a conflict that was now over, and a refugee problem that had apparently been absorbed, she found it difficult to know how to respond to their pleas to "tell the west".

A further outcome of the war was

Shevardnadze's decision to seek membership of the CIS - in the hope of keeping Russia at arm's length. The price was allowing Russian troops to be stationed on Georgian soil, and it fell to a Green adviser to negotiate this "ultimate defeat" - yet another bitter experience of office.

Niki was at pains to point out that, in spite of the problems - unimaginable to many westerners - facing the Georgians, there is a joie de vivre about the place. Theatres are packed with people and artists and writers are much respected - and their acquaintance cultivated by influential Greens. "They take their art desperately seriously," Niki commented.

Moreover, "There is a cult of hospitality - it's a very strong part of the culture. We were invited somewhere every night." With the price of fresh produce chasing the average week's wage, meals had to be artfully prepared and hosts' tables groaned with exquisite dishes making a little go a long way. With every draft of wine, a toast was offered.

## Assassination attempt on Green leader

The routine dangers of life in Georgia was brought vividly to life for the visitors in an incident at the end of their stay. The Greens' Foreign Affairs Advisor a former Federation committee member called Zurab Zvania, had appeared on television to announce country-wide police road blocks aimed at gathering in all the populace's arms - in reality a move to curb organised violence. A week later, Zurab turned up two hours late to collect his Federation guests for a dinner, hurrying them to his ministerial car with the news that someone had

tried to kill him. A bomb had gone off in the road earlier that day as he was driven to the Green Party office. "That kind of news does not penetrate the brain that quickly," said Niki, "So when his security guard said 'Get down'... we just sat there." They were being scrutinised by the occupants of a large car that was blocking the road. Eventually it pulled away. Niki and her Federation colleagues were stunned not only by the bombing, but by the calm response of Zurab and his family. Indeed, for the entire trip they were impressed by the Georgian Greens' determination to cope with the appalling problems they had taken on in accepting office.

The future for the party is not clear, both because of their controversial decisions and because prominent Greens intend to stand in next year's elections under the banner of the new Citizens' League Party. It is understandable that they consider the fate of Georgia more important than the fate of the party name, but naturally this concerned Federation Committee members. Whatever happens next year, the Georgian Greens have earned our respect for what they have done so far. Niki pointed out that among Green Parties,

"the Georgian Greens stand out in that they are extremely powerful by anybody's standards and they cannot afford to be a party that limits itself to the single issue of the environment. Several members of the (Federation) Committee were members of the European Parliament, and have what they imagine to be first hand experience of real life politics, but like the rest of us they felt extremely humbled by what the Georgians have to deal with daily."



Commercial building used to house refugees

Autumn 1995 GREEN WORLD 21

## SCHUMACHER LECTURES 1995

**Britain's premier environmental gathering**

**Dr Karl Henryk Robert**, founder of *The Natural Step*, Sweden's renowned and highly effective environmental group, will talk about his unique approach to sustainable development for businesses and local authorities.

**Maneka Gandhi** is a Member of Indian Government and former Minister for the Environment; she has also been championing the cause of animal welfare for many years in India.

**Mark Edwards**, recipient of the UN Global 500 Award, will be giving an illustrated talk about his 25 years as an environmental photographer.

**Saturday 21st October 1995**

**10am - 5pm at Colston Hall, Bristol**

For more details please contact Jo Hoare, Schumacher Society, Foxhole, Dartington, Totnes, Devon, TQ9 6EB, UK; or phone 01803 865051.

Free to Schumacher Society members. For details of joining the Society please contact the above address.



# Esperanto

## For a United Green Movement

The need for a common, non-dominant, culturally and ethnically neutral language is of paramount importance for world peace, cooperation and equality.

The UN and the European Parliament actively discriminate against ethnic minorities by forcing them to use languages of the dominant economic or military powers - German, French, English/American, Russian, Chinese, Spanish, etc. At the Earth Summit in Rio, NGOs and individuals from minority cultures gathered for their own conference, but many were unable to express themselves on equal terms with native speakers of English, French, Spanish and Portuguese, and some were excluded by being unable to understand any language other than their own.

### Personal Value

As with many Green concepts, the major obstacles to the development and greater acceptance of Esperanto are ignorance and apathy. Few people will learn a language for philosophical or altruistic reasons, but Esperanto has many attractions at a personal level. It takes less than one-fifth of the time, energy and money to learn than any national language to the same standard. There is an international network of contacts, and one can travel abroad with the guarantee of friendship and often free accommodation. It is also true that by learning Esperanto first, you will learn other languages more quickly, and understand your own better.

### In Practice

If Esperanto were taught in all schools:

- All children would have a competence in a language in 1 year, equivalent to the level currently achieved by 5 years of learning French (or any other foreign language);
- Any child who wanted to go on to learn another language would learn much faster;
- By learning one truly international language, children can correspond with people from any other nation. They can read books, letters and magazines from all over the world, and learn more about other cultures than by doing 'Geography';
- Children could visit any country in the world, able to communicate on equal terms with 'friendly natives';
- If children went on to study Esperanto over 5 years, many would achieve full mastery of the language, which can be used in any country - compared to 5 years of French, which leaves most incompetent in a language of limited value;
- There will be enormous savings in time, energy, money and resources.

### Reality of Esperanto

Two reasons why people avoid Esperanto:

- There is the assumption that no-one else uses it. UNESCO estimates 8 million users; there are daily broadcasts, dozens of regular magazines and thousands of books.
- 'English is spoken everywhere.' It is, in fact, only spoken by 8% of the world's population, many of whom cannot read or write.

### TEN FACTS YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT ESPERANTO

- 1 Eight million Esperanto users worldwide
- 2 Over 100 Esperanto magazines/papers
- 3 Over 15 radio stations broadcast regularly in Esperanto - Peking, Warsaw and Havana daily.
- 4 1500 scientists attended the 1994 San Marino International Scientific Congress which used only Russian and Esperanto.
- 5 Tito, Harold Wilson, Tolstoy and Castro spoke Esperanto. And Arthur Scargill!
- 6 Margaret Thatcher, Mao Zedong, H.G.Wells, Jules Verne, Patrick Moore, Rory Bremner, Esther Rantzen, Angela Rippon ... and nearly a third of current British MPs have advocated Esperanto
- 7 It cost £1.2 billion for translation services in the European Parliament in 1993. The 9 languages used in the EP had to be translated into 8 others - that's 9x8 directions of translation, i.e. 72. With 11 nations the figure now is 110. And further expansion planned...
- 8 UNESCO advocates the teaching of Esperanto as a 2nd language in schools
- 9 The use of English or other language of a dominant culture suppresses and eventually destroys minority languages and cultures. The use of Esperanto as a universal second language allows them to grow and develop
- 10 Esperanto is accepted as a major world literary language by the prestigious International PEN association of writers

by Brian Burnett

### Future for Esperanto

The Esperanto movement is stronger in some countries than others - and it probably weakest in the English-speaking countries. In East Europe, Italy, China and Brazil, there are many thriving groups. There are mixed nationality marriages where at home, the partners use only Esperanto, and there are now young adults who have been Esperanto speakers from birth. It has been drawing people together for over 100 years, but its enormous potential to improve the cooperation and friendship between different nations is yet to come.

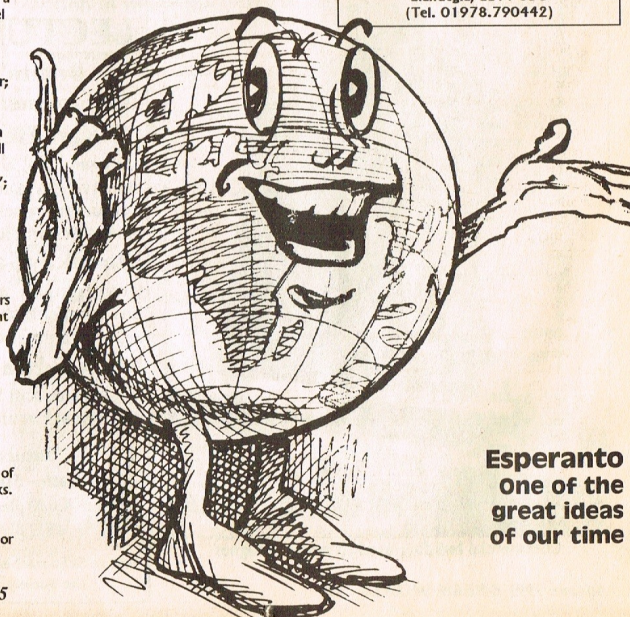
As Greens owe it to ourselves, our children and to our 'samideano!' (fellow-thinkers) who belong to ethnic minorities to at least support Esperanto, and better still, learn to use it.

VERDire is the international quarterly Green Magazine, written in Esperanto (subscription £7 p.a. from GP Esperanto Group.) AVE - Asocio de Verduloj Esperantistaj is the International Association of Green Esperantists. Worldwide membership. Publishes a newsletter in Esperanto (Sae for more details)

The Green Party Esperanto Group welcomes your support, please either:

1. Call or write expressing your support for the ideals of Esperanto.
2. Request further information about Esperanto, its links with the international green movement, and Lesson 1 of the Correspondence Course. (A5 sae)

Brian Burnett,  
Green Party Esperanto Group  
Nant Yr Hafod Cottage  
Llandegla, LL11 3BG  
(Tel. 01978.790442)



**Esperanto**  
One of the  
great ideas  
of our time

### South Africa The Other Side of the Coin

I would like to thank Miriam Kennet for bringing South Africa and its very grave issues to light in her article in GW 10.

The Kalahari Bushmen are all but extinct, due to intermarriage and the seduction of the materialistic and greedy Western lifestyle. I always thought of them as a perfect example to the rest of the world, the way they lived in complete harmony with nature and each other, living and enjoying life the way it should be.

The whole country is in a terrible state of poverty. Townships like Crossroads could sadden the hardest of hearts.

Money comes before people in many ways and there are no benefits for the unemployed of any colour. Cars are often the only form of transport. They are dreadfully expensive, affordable only to the well off. Often one has to hitch hike to reach a destination.

Property developers are the worst, destroying delicate ecosystems to build badly constructed luxury homes at astronomical prices which are way beyond most South Africans. They build yet more hotels and holiday resorts along beautiful, unspoiled coastlines, which are soon being destroyed by human waste and pollution. They claim the tourism generated is vital to the economy, but have obviously never heard of being environmentally friendly. Anyway, what happened to building houses for the poor?

The only criticism I have of Miriam's article is that politically it is a bit one-sided. Having been born and bred in the Cape in S. Africa, and having lived there until very recently, I would like to give you a fuller view of the situation.

Cape Town is probably the most liberal and cosmopolitan city in the country. It also had the largest 'white' ANC following in the country. The National Party do hold sway now, but let us not forget which party released Nelson Mandela from prison, in spite of the fact that their predecessors put him there in the first place, and who helped the vast turn around from apartheid.

One cannot blame the National Party entirely for the poverty in the Cape - it's everywhere, including where the ANC are in power. In fact, the ANC promised to build approximately 1m houses by the end of 1994. They haven't yet built even a quarter of that figure, they say because of a lack of funds. But what happened to the billions given in Aid from Europe, Japan and the USA? Surely there must have been enough to build houses, or at least improve the sanitation for these poor people?

Lastly, to the question of are there Greens in S. Africa, the answer is yes, but not very many. I think they are discouraged because the problems are so huge, and the following so small. Rather like an elephant being addressed by an ant. But the Green Party did appear on the ballot paper at the last elections (I know, I voted for them), so there is hope!

My husband and I have recently joined the Green Party here in England and are willing to do anything to help establish the Green Party in South Africa.

Angelique Plunkett  
Litherland, Merseyside

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

#### PC Hugging and the Irish

Whilst the PC Hugging story says at least as much about the media as it does about the Green Party, the positive tone of the item in GW10 gave me some cause for concern. Whilst it could be argued that for the relatively unsuccessful parties in England, and in Scotland, almost any publicity is good publicity, the same does not apply to those which are seriously challenging their political establishments.

In Irish opinion polls the Greens are reaching 6% nationally and 9% in Dublin, giving them a real opportunity of winning a significant number of seats in the Dail. At present they have 2 MEPs, 1 TD, and many councillors including the current Mayor of Dublin. The credibility of those elected was not boosted by the news from across the Irish Sea!

There are many in the Irish media who wish this Green threat to disappear and the PC Hugging story was ideal ammunition for them. Most people in Ireland can also watch BBC and ITV, and UK newspapers are commonplace.

It is important when analysing the impact of potential news stories that some account of their potentially detrimental effect on others internationally, and in particular in other countries of the British Isles.

Duncan McCabe  
Scottish Green Party, Dundee

#### Winning Friends and Influencing People

After receiving GW9, I was so dismayed by the 'margins of society' focus of the publication that I determined to resign from the Green Party. I even wrote the letter. Then, so impressed have I been by the campaigning process embodied in the Energy Conservation Bill and the Traffic Reduction Bill (the clarity of the broadsheets, the alliances, the dogged lobbying) that I stayed my hand.

Issue No. 10 has given me further hope. While I still can't view squatters, tinkers or tips as central to the fight to save the planet, these issues are not given prominence, so I can regard them as interesting extras. The main articles - on the Energy Conservation Bill, on the New Protectionism (Tim Hines) and on the different strands of ecology (David Taylor) - I found quite exciting - stimulating, informative, though-provoking.... Excellent stuff.

Suddenly Green World looks like a publication I could pass on to a colleague or friend, of the 'Middle England' type! I think that's important if we're serious about winning friends and influencing people.

Val Stevens  
Belton, Loughborough

#### Support Eco-prisoners

I was very glad to see your positive attitude towards Non-Violent Direct Action. Anyone who performs NVDA runs the risk of imprisonment. Like most supporters of NVDA, I believe that once a person has been arrested for a 'direct action', then that person should not be abandoned (by the Green Movement) to their fate, but should be given all the moral support they need to help them through their time in prison.

Earth Liberation Prisoners Support Group (ELP) circulates lists of jailed eco-warriors and

encourages people to write letters of support to them. As far as I am aware, there are currently 3 people in jail for eco-defence actions:

JIM CHAMBERS is a long time activist of the No M11 Link Road campaign. He was arrested last February, accused of causing £50,000 worth of criminal damage to cranes and diggers at the M11 construction site. He has been held on remand ever since. He totally denies the charges. ELP are asking people to show their solidarity with Jim by writing to him in prison. His address is: Jim Chambers, PV2504, HMP Pentonville, Caledonian Road, London N7.

KEN SARO-WIWA is the President of the Movement for the Survival of the Ogoni People (MOSOP), a non-violent pressure group that campaigns against the oil company Shell. In Nigeria, Shell, and other oil companies, are causing much environmental damage, and MOSOP are trying to get them to clean up their act. The Nigerian Government (a dictatorship) has beaten, injured and murdered MOSOP members to try and silence them. Ken was arrested on trumped up murder charges, and on the basis of these false allegations has been sentenced to death.

ELP does not have a prison address for Ken, but is encouraging people to write to the Nigerian Embassy to try and get his death sentence lifted, and to Shell, asking them to use their influence to save Ken's life.

PAUL S. is a Dutch eco-activist, sentenced to 2 years and 9, having been found guilty of sabotaging bulldozers. Paul can read English, and his address is: Paul S., c/o EYFA International, PO Box 92066, 1090 AB, Amsterdam, Holland

For more information about ELP, write to ELP, c/o Box 23, 5 High Street, Glastonbury. This letter was not authorised by ELP - the author is an individual and does not claim to speak on the behalf of anyone else

RABBIX  
London WC1N

#### SMALL ADS

**FF CASSETTES** - music/meditation tapes. £6.50 each inc. p&h. Free leaflet available (recycled paper). 29 Roundwood Road, Hastings TN37 7LD 01424 753792

**VEGETARIAN B&B** at picturesque home of GP member in Ingelton, North Yorkshire. Area of caves, waterfalls and limestone scenery of breathtaking beauty. Tel. 015242 41528

**Stay Green in Castlereagh, Norfolk** Informal Wholefood Accommodation. Sleeps 20. Medieval walled town, Castle Priory 0760 755557

**ORGANIQUE** - organic wholefoods, cruelty free cosmetics and essential oils. Nationwide home delivery service. For catalogue call 0171 813 3183. Organique 130 Drummond St London NW1 2PA.

**THE DENDROLOGIST** Quarterly for all interested in trees & woodlands. £4.00 a year from: Hon. Treasurer, P.O. Box 341, Chesham, Bucks HP5 2RD.

**ALONE? LONELY?** Interested in 'green' issues? Join GREENLINE, the alternative friendship agency which won't cost the Earth. SAE: P.O. Box 2, Totnes TQ9 5YP



### The Hallelujah Revolution Rise of the New Christians

Ian Cotton  
Little, Brown & Company  
1995 ISBN 0-316-90744-8  
h/b 250pp £16.99

This is much more than a simple account of revivalism, and one which Greens will find insightful and very important. The New Christians have grown into an international movement numbering tens of millions over an incredibly time. This religious revival is just one aspect of something broader that is happening to society. Cotton's book not only addresses what is happening, but why it is happening now.

Today's society is rife with uncertainty, as phenomenal changes are taking place; insecurity about work (an amazing 60% have now not got 'proper' jobs'), fears about eco-disaster; crash psychosis of the money markets; the information age; biotech. And so on. Relentless change and uncertainty gives rise to 'contemporary stress'. Mental illness, depression, etc. are at the highest levels ever.

Using a remarkable practical technique, Cotton shows how conversionism is very close, psychologically, to nervous breakdown. He also gives historical examples of societies, which, under great pressure, underwent mass conversion, including the '1000 year' Reich in Germany during the Great Depression.

The massive expansion of the evangelical movement started at grass roots level. Disillusioned and unfulfilled by the 'establishment' Church, the New Christians (comprising Catholics and Protestants of all kinds coming together) did something which would have been unthinkable 40 years ago. They turned their living rooms into places of worship. As

the movement grew, they hired halls, and eventually took over churches they initially rejected.

Now think about today's political situation. Government is perceived by most people to be distant, corrupt and failing to meet their needs. A new politics, exacerbated by things like the CJA, is rapidly growing, as seen in the anti-roads, live exports, LETS, etc. etc. This is all Green territory, and needs Green politics to help unite and guide it towards a sustainable, Green future.

These great changes are happening now - the people are psychologically primed for 'conversion'. If the Green political movement fails to deliver; other, much nastier alternatives, will prevail. New Age Nazism for example. And there will probably not be another chance...

PETER BARNETT

### How to Shit in the Woods Kathleen Meyer

£4.99  
Order from bookellers or the Airlift  
Book Company Tel: 0710 607 5792

For some British hikers a drink from a cold mountain stream is one of the delights of walking in the higher British hills. Britain is one of the few places in world where you can still enjoy mountain stream water without fear of disease organisms; as long as you avoid places where there are dead sheep, etc. in or near the water. But it may not stay that way.

The mountain streams in the USA were also disease free until about 25 years ago. Now the parasite 'Gardia lamblia' is widespread in American watercourses, and it can cause extremely unpleasant symptoms. The wilderness waterways of New Zealand were free of it until 1991, as was the Nahanni National Park in Canada until 1992. Now they both have it.

The desire for urban people to

go into wild areas puts great pressure on them, and it is an increasing pressure. We can damage them by our boots and litter, and also by human excrement. I'm told that the Pennine Way has lots of little piles along its route topped by pink toilet paper. Since it is thought that 'Gardia' and other waterborne disease organisms are spread by people via their waste, it's only a matter of time before the enjoyment of a drink from a hill stream is a thing of the past.

Kathleen Meyer, an American Whitewater river guide, was concerned enough about the pollution of our wild areas, by city folk who don't know how to behave sensibly, that she put aside her natural reticence to speak about these matters, and has written an amusing and very informative book. But be warned, the title and some of the terms she uses may offend.

She draws on her own experiences and those of others to tell us about the skills once possessed by our ancestors, but now largely lost. She covers her subject thoroughly, in a homely and practical way, if rather geared to the American situation.

Kathleen includes a quote from the Old Testament. In the book of Deuteronomy there are some instructions for the safe disposal of human excrement, because the Jewish people's religion was as concerned about wise living in all aspects of life, not just in spiritual matters. We would do well to copy them, if we care about the world we hand onto our grandchildren.

DAVID WALL

### Turning Up The Heat M15 After the Cold War

Larry O'Hara  
Phoenix Press  
ISBN 0-948984-29-5  
p/b 96pp £6 (inc. p&p)  
Cheque pay to O'Hara  
To: BM Box 4769,  
London WC1N 3XX

Larry's theme is simple. The end of the cold war and peace in Northern Ireland are giving M15 employment problems. To preserve jobs the spies are working to persuade the media of new 'terrorist' threats and are using agents provocateurs to egg on 'extremist' groups into taking violent action.

Although Larry, a longstanding Green Party member and political scientist, examines a variety of areas from Welsh Nationalism to the far left, his section on the Green Movement is of most obvious interest to us. Internationally Greens have long been a target of interest for the

secret services from the bombing of the Rainbow Warrior in 1985 to the Move massacre in the USA in the same year.

Larry notes how Earth First! in the USA were infiltrated by the FBI and set up for arrest. How an FBI agent persuaded activists to cut down electricity pylons and had them arrested as they about the task. Or how the radical Earth First! leader Judi Bari, who opposed what she saw as potentially dangerous forms of 'eco-sabotage' like treespiking, was nearly killed by a bomb planted by the FBI.

Although M15 interest in the UK Greens has not reached this level of repression, Larry shows that it does exist, outlining the cases of two apparent secret state infiltrators into the Green Movement. Tim Hepple, for example, who combined membership of the Green Party and Green Anarchist with the BNP, seems to be at the least a rather suspicious character.

In all this is a surprisingly calm and well referenced guide to a difficult and controversial area. I suppose the lesson is to be aware of obvious state interest in radical Green politics while recognising that paranoia and the sowing of suspicion is one of the most effective ways of disrupting our efforts to make a Green future.

DEREK WALL

### The Completion

Chris Marsh  
Backwater Publishing  
ISBN 0-9525289-0-8  
p/b £6

This is the story of mankind, from the destructive 'necrotech' age we live in today, through the global dream city of the biotech age, to the Completion of the human story.

Witness the ultimate anthropocentric technofix, as the entire planet is rid of species to support a genetically engineered biomass which provides humans with their every need. When the support system eventually fails, the people that emerge, inspired by access to knowledge libraries from the past, have to face a ravaged planet and evolve to a gentler and wiser existence, in harmony with returning life forms.

Although written as a story, The Completion is allegorical and visionary. It's exploration into patterns of consciousness passed on from generation to generation suggest how our self destructive tendencies are like bad habits we can't shake off.

It is a highly original, intriguing and very compelling book, which

will leave a strong impression on you, and leave you thinking about it long after.

### The Cruelty Free Guide to London

Alex Bourke & Paul Gaynor  
ISBN 1-85897-034-8  
p/b 250pp £5.60 (inc. p&p)  
Cruelty-Free Living, Dept. AW, 18  
FIVE House, Polderside Rd, SE15 5SY

Covering Greater London and beyond, this handy-sized, fact-filled book is both an invaluable practical guide and reference book. It is superbly laid out and includes essential details of:

- 135 vegetarian/vegan cafe/restaurants
- 167 more with extensive veggie menus
- Veg/cruelty free shops - food, clothing, etc.
- 179 top tourist attractions
- Animal/Veggie gp directory
- Youth Hostels, camping & veggie guest houses
- Mini-veggie guides for weekends in Bath, Brighton, Bristol, Cambridge, Oxford, Stratford and Windsor.

Plus maps, travel tips on where to eat, reading list, etc. Don't leave home without it!

### The Green Challenge The Development of Green Parties in Europe

Edited by Dick Richardson &  
Chris Rootes  
Routledge  
ISBN 0-415-10650-8  
p/b 288pp £12.99

This is an excellent account of the formation, development and varying electoral successes of Green parties in Europe. The chapters are arranged by country, each written by a specialist.

Focusing around the key themes of the rise in ecological consciousness and the shifting balance of party political competition, Greens should read this both for interest, and for the lessons to be learnt from other's experiences.

### Undercurrents 3

Small World Media  
VHS video 110 mins  
£9.50 (waged), £6.50 (unwaged)  
£25 institutions  
Pay to Small World Media to: DW128  
Small World Media, 46 Rymer Lane,  
Oxford OX4 3LB

The alternative news service on video - positive, entertaining, inspiring, sometimes shocking coverage of Green issues, shot on domestic camcorders, mostly by the campaigners themselves.

The latest issue contains 14 items covering a wide range of issues including live exports, anti-roads, The Land is Ours, police abusing their powers and a global news roundup.

\*A camcorder on a demo can help prevent the police or security

men beating you up" - but not always, as is evident in some sequences. This is the news you rarely see on TV, and presented from the protesters' perspectives. Buy it, watch it, and pass it on to doubters and sceptics. A better recruitment tool is hard to find. **Prayer for the Wild Things**

Paul Winter  
Audio CD or cassette  
Lyrinx Music - 10029

Described as "An Earth Music Celebration of the Northern Rockies", Paul Winter (soprano sax) is accompanied by several musicians playing traditional instruments, the White Eagle Singers & the voices of 27 birds and mammals of the Rocky Mountains. And the result is wonderful.

The interweaving of man-made music with the natural world is achieved with perfect harmony - it is music to sit, listen to, and savour - definitely not to do the washing to!

Prayer for the Wild Thing won the 1994 Grammy Award for Best New Age Album, and deservedly so.

Paul Winter will be making his British debut with a special concert at St. James Church, Piccadilly on Oct. 30th 1995, and on Nov 4th is running his acclaimed 'Living Music Workshop'. Further details from Alternatives 0171 287 6711.

### Open Eye 3

John Murray &  
Matthew Kelman  
AA magazine 52pp  
£1.70 inc. p&p to:  
BM Open Eye, London WC1N 3XX

By offering a rare combination of quality and quantity at a low price, Open Eye is outstanding value for money, and at the risk of sounding clichéd, truly essential reading for all Greens.

With virtually no advertising, this issue is packed with informative, revealing, thought-provoking and disturbing articles, which include: The Free Market Myth (Noam Chomsky), the New Repression (Vandana Shiva), M15 Target Greens (Larry O'Hara), Who Bombed Earth First! (Ward Churchill) and GATT: Global Plunder (Tim Lang).

There's also pieces on the Welsh Greens' troubles, like and the Nazis and an in-depth look at 'Quackbuster' Duncan Campbell.

Open Eye describes itself as 'Challenging Media Censorship', and strives to uncover issues concealed or ignored by the media. More daring than Private Eye, it's good investigative journalism tackling cans of worms that urgently needed opening.

(Reviews by Peter Barnett except where indicated)



### Forget the Lottery Play the Green Party's White Owl Monthly Draw

You are about 14 million times more likely to win the White Owl Draw than the National Lottery!

The White Owl Draw is the Party's monthly draw, offering cash prizes every month, for an entrance fee of only £2. The top monthly prize of up to £100 depends on the number of participants.

A key factor holding back the Green Party is funding. It cannot rely on corporate or Trades Union sponsorship, or wealthy benefactors. It survives on members subs and donations, and the time and resources of its core of dedicated activists. What the Party achieves, on a budget which is petty cash to the majors, is quite astounding. *Imagine what we might do with proper funding!*

For just 50p a week, everyone can help by entering the White Owl Draw - and have a good chance of winning a cash prize into the bargain. We also encourage Local Parties to subscribe - currently all participants are individuals. Come on LP's, the cost of each draw is equal to just one unwaged capitation!

Complete the form below and send to: Maggie Jones, White Owl Draw, 18 Burn Close, Aledstone Surrey KT15 2PJ

Send this coupon to Maggie, not your bank.

Yes, I/we would like a flutter with 'The White Owl' Name.....

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

- ☐ I/we enclose a cheque for £24 to 'The Green Party' (12 month's entrance fees!)
- ☐ I/we require a receipt
- ☐ I/we enclose a completed bankers' order.

To: Bank.....

Sort Code

Address.....

.....Post Code.....

Please pay 'The Green Party' £2.00 every month starting on receipt of this order and debit my/our account A/C

Signed.....

Pay to the Green Party A/C 50115738.

Co-operative Bank Plc, 34 Kingsway,

Swansea SA1 1SL (Sort Code 08-90-85)

### Volleys for Vicky

Green Party National Office welcomes creative and efficient volunteers to work in an administrative capacity. Travel expenses will be paid and we always need your help.

We are also compiling an on-call Green Party Mailing's team. Call Vicky on 0171 272 4474

### Campaigns Review

Representatives of the Executive and Regional Council are conducting a review of the Party's campaigns, i.e.:

- achievements of our existing strategy, including objectives
- source of campaign ideas i.e. GPX, GPRC, local parties, media, wider green movement,
- target groups (establishment, youth, greens, media etc)
- priority of specific areas (eg.CJA, roads, Europe, health, etc)
- role of NVDA and the GP100
- funding, accounts and committee
- logistical support (eg. printer, DTP, badges, placards etc)

Your contributions welcome. Send your thoughts to: David Taylor, Lockyers Farm, Somerton Somerset TA11 6PE

### Education Policy Group

We are in the final stages of drafting a comprehensive series of policy pointers on pertinent education issues. It's not too late to make your views known.

Contact Hazel Clawley, 26 Taywood Drive, Birmingham B10 0BD 0121 772 7165.

### ART COMPETITION

Open to everyone, we are looking for artists and designers to create images for getting Green ideas across in a number of categories. There are prizes for the winners, and free tickets to Southport Conference, where an exhibition of all entries will be on display.

For full details and an entry form, contact: Miriam Kennet, 20 Arlow Rd, Winchmore Hill London N21. Closing date for artwork is 25th Sep.

## THE VOICE OF BRITISH FEMINISM

Everywoman Magazine -  
"Bringing back the f-word"

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# First Agenda

## Green Party Autumn Conference 1995

Southport 11-15 October

The official business to be debated and voted at Conference

### INTRODUCTION

This is a summary of the First Agenda, which details all the motions submitted by members to be debated and voted on at the Autumn Conference. Copies of the complete version have been sent to all local Party contacts. Further copies are available on request from

Party Office,  
1a Waterlow Road,  
London N19 5NJ  
Tel 0171 272 4474.

There are 44 motions and 2 Draft Voting Papers. All motions submitted were in order. Members are invited to amend the motions and Draft Voting Papers. Amendments should be signed by four Party members and include a contact address. They should be sent to Matthew Paterson (address below), to arrive no later than Thursday 17th August 1995.

Elections will also be held for posts to the following committees: Mediation Committee; Policy Committee; Standing Orders Committee (SOC). Nominations and candidates statements should be sent to Malcolm Howe at 35 Cricket Road, Oxford, OX4 3DU, or delivered to him at the Conference, by 12pm on Saturday 14th October.

At the end of the Agenda is a Prioritisation Ballot, which enables members to help determine the order of motions in Sections C and D in the Final Agenda. Ballot forms should be sent to Matthew Paterson by 24th August 1995.

Convenor of SOC:  
Matthew Paterson,  
114 Stanier Street,  
Newcastle under  
Lyme  
Staffs, ST5 2SU.  
Tel: 0782 620599.  
E-mail  
irat3@ir.keele.ac.uk.

### SECTION A

1. Conference accepts SOC Report. *Proposed by SOC.*
2. Conference accepts Mediation Committee Report. *Proposed by SOC.*
3. Conference accepts Party Treasurer Report. *Proposed by SOC.*
4. Conference accepts Party Executive Report. *Proposed by SOC.*
5. Conference accepts Regional Council Co-Chairs Report. *Proposed by SOC.*
6. Conference accepts Policy Committee Report. *Proposed by Policy Committee.*
7. Conference accepts the interim report on costing the Basic Income Scheme. *Proposed by Policy Committee. Contact Michael Stimson, 31a Knights' Park, Kingston upon Thames KT1 2QH.*

### SECTION B

(Policy Voting Papers and Enabling Motions)

#### 1. Housing Voting Paper

Proposes new policy on housing for MFSS, based on the Draft Voting Paper submitted to Spring Conference 1995 and the Discussion Paper of Spring 1994. The policy emphasises the universal human right to housing which is secure, adequate and affordable. The aim is to ensure that all citizens are provided with housing appropriate to their needs. Housing and its immediate environment should be under the control of the people who live there. Policies for housing will be designed to promote community life, and to minimise the impact on the environment.

We have a neutral position regarding home ownership, but inappropriate subsidies will be removed. Local authority housing provision will be increased, but with an emphasis on local provision for local needs, decentralised forms of housing management and the empowerment and protection of tenants. The role of housing associations will also be enlarged, but such associations will be democratised, with a

fundamental shift of power in favour of tenants, and their size will be restricted. No further support will be given to the private rented sector.

The Party's existing policies on homelessness are included. Other policy areas covered are: the legal protection of tenants; the maintenance and improvement of existing housing; standards to which new houses will be built; self-build schemes; building sites; second homes; and special housing needs. An option is presented whether housing benefit should be incorporated into Basic Income or be additional to it.

*Proposed: Paul Thomas, Alan Francis, Mark Douglas, Mischa Boris, Kyverdale Road, Stoke Newington, London N16 7AB. Tel: 0181-806 1191, paulthomas@gp.apc.org*

#### 2. Built Environment Enabling Motion

An enabling motion for new policy in the Built Environment section of the MFSS, excluding the Housing parts. Proposes the Built Environment Network should continue developing policy, with a draft paper presented to the 1996 Spring Conference. The new policy should be aimed at both councillors and the electorate.

*Proposed: Martha Brett, Daniel James, Mark Douglas, Jenni Chan. Contact: Martha Brett, 115 Greyhound Road, Tottenham, London, N17 6XR.*

#### 3. Fisheries Voting Paper

Fisheries are an important human activity and should be managed in a sustainable way to maintain marine biodiversity and provide a continuing source of edible fish, in a manner which does not degrade the environment. To these ends we will work for the EU to negotiations with the start to reconstitute the Common Fisheries Policy, on sound ecological principles, aiming for each region

eventually to fish only in its own waters.

o the limiting of fishing activity in EU waters, to sustainable levels, by setting realistic Total Allowable Catches.

o Marine Protected Areas around our coastline to be designated, to maintain their biodiversity.

o importing fish from other regions to be stopped as most of which are poorer than ourselves.

o the phasing out of industrial fishing as a matter of urgency.

o the prevention of all pollution of the seas.

o the banning of discarding of fish at sea.

o investigation into ways of keeping fish in small scale, ecologically sound "farms".

o collaboration in international research to study marine life as a whole.

o sign the UN Convention on the Law of the Sea of 1982.

*Proposed: Agricultural Policy Group. Contact: Tony Holt, 73 West End Rd, Colcar, Huddersfield, HD7 4JF. Tel: 0484 645480.*

#### 4. Enabling Motion for a rewrite of the Philosophical Basis of the Green Party

Enables Policy Committee to begin a process of building consensus around a rewrite of the Philosophical Basis, that will express the long term Green vision in simple language.

*Proposed: Chloe Wilson, Peter Harris, Alex Begg, Penny Kemp. Contact: Alex Begg, 16 Sholebrooke Avenue, Leeds, LS7 3HB. Tel: 0113 262 9365.*

#### 5. Enabling Motion on Agriculture, Forestry and the Countryside

Enables the re-evaluation and up-dating of the party's policy on agriculture, forestry and the countryside.

*Proposed: Spencer Fitz-Gibbon, Ann Salter, Juliet Denham, Paul Harrison. Contact: Spencer Fitz-Gibbon, 21 Meade Grove, Longsight, Manchester, M13 0SC. 0161 2254863.*

### SECTION C

(Policy Motions)

#### 1. Nuclear Power Stations

Nuclear power stations and associated facilities to be renationalised without compensation prior to closure and decommissioning.

*Proposed: P. Harris, A. Ketchin, J. Edmonds, J. Millington. Contact: Julian Edmonds, 40 Hencroft St South, Slough, SL1 1RE. Tel: 01753 824886.*

#### 2. Sale of Railtrack

No synopsis provided

*Proposed: Geoff Forse, Brian Fewster, Yvonne Peake, Mark Simpson. Contact: Geoff Forse, 92 Marshall Street, Leicester LE3 5FB. Tel: 0116 2515775.*

#### 3. Philosophical Basis

No synopsis provided.

*Proposed: C. Mills, G. Holden, D. Ford, E. Paine. Contact: C. Mills, 70 Cheshunt Ln, Amersham Common, Bucks HP6 6EH. Tel: 01494 726103.*

#### 4. Clear Statement of the Green Vision

Offers a clear statement of the Green vision and principles for the start of the Philosophical Basis - a society which is ecologically sustainable, fair, participatory, non-violent, and achievable.

*Proposed: S. Fitz-Gibbon, M. Scott, C. Busby, J. Norris. Contact: JN, 5 Beaumont Ave, Richmond, TW9 2HE.*

#### 5. Green Humanists as well as Advocates of Spirituality

Ensures Humanists are not excluded from Philosophical Basis, by amending it to respect belief in spirituality rather than requiring it.

*Proposed: D. Johnson, J. Asheton, J. Edmonds, Michael Stimson. Contact: JN, (see above)*

#### 6. Oppose Identity Cards

Opposes the introduction of national identity cards, as an attack on civil liberties. Inserts policy on identity and privacy

*Proposed: D. Johnson, J. Kemp, J. Edmonds, J. Norris, J. Morrissey. Contact: JN (see above)*

### SECTION D

Organisational Motions

#### 1. More time to submit Motions

Change Standing orders to ii) delay the deadline for receipt of motions by 6 weeks; iii) empower drafting workshops to make uncontroversial improvements to proposals at conference; iii) allow acceptance or withdrawal of amendments by consensus before the plenary; iv) introduce safeguards against a workshop unduly influencing plenary debate.

*Proposed by SOC. Contact: Joe Otten, 23 Ramsey Road, Sheffield S10 1LR. Tel 0114 2660923*

#### 2. Amend Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference

Shortens conference agenda deadlines by 2 weeks, to provide more time for members to prepare their proposals.

*Proposed by Policy Committee. Contact: Julian Edmonds, 40 Hencroft St South, Slough, SL1 1RE*

#### 3. Amend Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference

Returns policy motions which do not amend the MFSS to Section C of the Agenda

*Proposed by Policy Committee. Contact: J. Edmonds (see above)*

#### 4. Conference timetable

To make Standing Orders more flexible by allowing Conference to return to a section before having started all the others.

*Proposed: John Morrissey, Maggie Morrissey, John Norris, Richard Bramhall. Contact: JN, 5 Beaumont Ave, Richmond TW9 2HE*

#### 5. Records of Conference Workshops

Conference workshops debating Voting Papers and Draft Voting Papers should submit formal records of numbers and debate to SOC and Policy Committee. Those debating Voting Papers should be subject to a quorum and two thirds voting, so small numbers do not unduly influence the plenary debate.

*Proposed: David Wild, John Laker, Alan Francis, Linda Brett. Contact: Linda Brett, 32 Blakelaw Road, Macclesfield, SK11 7ED*

#### 6. Remove no consequence rule

Abolishes the rule that a motion to conference may be ruled out of order on the grounds that it "requires no consequential action".

*Proposed by SOC. Contact: Matthew Paterson, 14 Stanier Street, Newcastle under Lyme, ST5 5BC. Tel: 01782 620599*

#### 7. Abolish topical motions

Removes the distinction between topical and emergency motions, and relaxes the conditions that such motions must meet.

*Proposed by SOC. Contact: M. Paterson (see above)*

#### 8. Geographical Remit of Local Parties

Amends Constitution so that each local party is required to define its geographical remit which should not conflict with that of any other local party.

*Proposed: Darren Johnson, Ron Bailey, Alexandra Murrell, Dean Walton. Contact: Darren Johnson, 102 Armoury Road, London SE8 4LB. Tel: 0181 694 9524*

#### 9. Rule out joint candidates

Constitution to specifically rule out joint candidates.

*Proposed: David Wild, Linda Brett, Roger Noble, Anna Norman. Contact: Linda Brett, 32 Blakelaw Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 7ED*

#### 10. Allow joint candidates

Constitution should allow joint candidates under certain circumstances.

*Proposed: David Wild, Linda Brett, Roger Noble, Anna Norman. Contact: Linda Brett (see above)*

#### 11. GPEX on Green World Board

To give Executive wider discretion in their appointment of a representative to Board.

*Proposed by the Executive. Contact: John Morrissey, 13 Shetland Drive, Nuneaton, CV10 7LA. Tel: 01203 325890*

#### 12. Autonomous Northern Ireland GP

Northern Ireland Green Party to become an autonomous, with links to the other Green Parties of these islands.

*Proposed: Andrew Frew, Maggie Burch, Stephen*

### FIRST AGENDA

Daye, John Field. Contact: Andrew Frew, 62 Hay Park Ave, Belfast BT7 3FE. Tel 01232 649611/649133

#### 13. Removing conflicts between rotation and ex-officio duties

Removes the possibility of Clause 5 (ix) of the Constitution on rotation preventing a member properly elected to a post from carrying out its ex officio duties on another body.

*Proposed by the Executive. Contact: John Morrissey, 13 Shetland Drive, Nuneaton, CV10 7LA. Tel: 01203 325890*

#### 14. GPRC Remit

To clarify the role and importance of GPRC by making its prime responsibility the formulation of strategy whilst at the same time ensuring that GPRC always consults with GPEX concerning the each strategy's feasibility. Overall aim - a close and equal partnership between GPRC and GPEX.

*Proposed: Jenny Jones, Peter Barnett, Nick Anderson, John Clements. Contact: Nick Anderson, 9 Lambrook St, Glastonbury, BA6 8BY. Tel: 01458 831975*

#### 15. GPEX Remit

To restrict GPEX's responsibility to the day-to-day coordination of the Party within agreed strategies. ('Overall' and 'direction' could suggest hierarchy - inappropriate in a Party promoting a non-hierarchical philosophy - and, anyway, all the posts are called 'coordinators').

*Proposed: Jenny Jones, Peter Barnett, Nick Anderson (see above)*

#### 16. GPEX relationship to GPRC

To reinforce the need for GPRC and GPEX to consider each other as and work together as close and equal partners.

*Proposed: Jenny Jones, Peter Barnett, Nick Anderson, Miriam Kennet. Contact: Nick Anderson (see above)*

#### 17. Executive deputies attend GPRC meetings

To reinforce the need for a close and equal partnership between GPRC and GPEX by stressing the importance of the two bodies reporting back to each other.

*Proposed: Jenny Jones, Peter Barnett, Nick Anderson, Peg Alexander. Contact: Nick Anderson (see above)*

#### 18. Regional Council Committees

To give GPRC the same right as GPEX to create committees considered necessary for the efficient conduct of its work. It already happens unofficially, but they are called 'working groups'. Let's underline the equality of GPRC and GPEX and make it formal.

*Proposed: Andrew Garbutt, Miriam Kennet, John Clements, Peg Alexander. Contact: Nick Anderson (see above)*

#### 19. Extra-Electoral Strategy Voting Paper

Sets up a Campaigns Committee and Community to allow Green Party Campaigning to become more broad-based and accountable.

*Proposed: David Wood, Deborah Glass, Elise Benjamin, Craig Simmons. Contact: David Wood, 16 Bartelmas Close, Oxford OX4 2AE. Tel: 01865 204218*

#### 20. Green Party participation in Future of the European Union

An Action plan for Green Party participation in current debate leading to the 1996 IGC on the future of the European Union. Annex sets out position to be taken in the debate, based on MFSS policy, 1994 European Parliamentary election manifesto, and continuing policy review requested by Conference.

*Proposed: John Norris, Susan Miles, John Morrissey, Julian Edmonds. Contact: Susan Miles, 3 Copse Cottages, Shillingford Road, Walfordford OX10 8LQ*

#### 21. East Timor

No synopsis provided

*Proposed: Peter Merry, Janet Alty, Penny Walker, Paul Baple. Contact: Janet Alty, 18 Lillington Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 5YY. Tel: 01926 427773*

#### 22. Financing the Arms Trade

We are against the Government's policy on the arms trade, especially where it enters into contracts with repressive regimes and the way this affects the lives of the 3rd World poor. We are also concerned about the way British taxpayers' money is used regarding argues sales repressive regimes.

*Proposed: Rodney Thick, Sarah Colgate, Stuart Colgate, Joan Glass. Contact: Rodney Thick, 66 Rugby Road, Worthing, West Sussex BN11 5NB. Tel: 01903 504767*

#### 23. Endorse "The Land is Ours" Campaign

Endorses the "The Land is Ours" campaign to extend land rights to give greater access and to change to sustainable land uses.

*Proposed by the Executive. Contact: John Morrissey, 13 Shetland Drive, Nuneaton, CV10 7LA. Tel: 01203 325890*

#### 24. Green Party Publications

This Conference believes many local parties would like a uniform style for 'national' Green Party publications. This would not in any way prevent individuals, policy groups and local parties from producing materials in a completely different style if they so wished.

*Proposed: David Taylor, Clive Lord, Penny Kemp, Chloe Wilson. Contact: Alex Begg, 16 Sholebrooke Avenue, Leeds, LS7 3HB. Tel: 0115 262 9365*

#### 25. Constitutional Review Group

Creates a Constitutional Review Group.

*Proposed: David Wild, John Laker, Alan Francis, Linda Brett. Contact: Linda Brett, 32 Blakelaw Road, Macclesfield SK11 7ED*

#### 26. "Green Islands" Network

Welcomes the formation of the Green Islands Network to encourage links and co-operation between the Green Parties of Britain and Ireland and their members, on campaigns, policy, elections and in Europe. Endorses our participation therein.

*Proposed: GPeX. Contact: Sue Miles, 3 Copse Cottages, Shillingford Road, Walfordford, OX10 8LQ. Tel: 01494 838896*



## GREEN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

### FIRST AGENDA (continued)

#### DRAFT VOTING PAPERS

**1. Marine Policy**  
Given that seven tenths of this planet is water, and that nine tenths of habitat space on earth is in its seas and oceans, it is not surprising that the MP is correspondingly wide as it is in depth. Maritime issues covered here are as follows: background; insurance and liability; education, ship management, and technical assistance; port state control; British fleet; energy use; oil and gas; nuclear; nuclear dissolution; nuclear accident; radioactive dumping.

**2. Strategy for our Future**  
No synopsis provided. Proposed by GPRC Strategy Working Group. Contact John Spottiswoode, 14 Evelyn Crescent, Southampton, SO5 5JE. Tel: 07103 789230

#### PRIORITISATION BALLOT

Please fill in the form below to show how important you think the various motions in Sections C and D are. Each member has 10 votes for each section, which may be distributed between the motions in the section. No more than 3 votes may be given to each motion. You do not need to use all votes for each section. The Prioritisation Ballot forms should be sent to

Matthew Paterson, 114 Stanier St, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs ST5 2SU to arrive by 24th Aug 1995

C1	D6	D17
C2	D7	D18
C3	D8	D19
C4	D9	D20
C5	D10	D21
C6	D11	D22
D1	D12	D23
D2	D13	D24
D3	D14	D25
D4	D15	D26
D5		

NAME.....

POSTCODE.....

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

#### INSTRUCTIONS:

- Hustings for all these posts will be held at Autumn Conference.
- Ballot papers should be given on the ballot papers. This allows time to attend the hustings. The address to which they should be returned is given on the ballot papers.
- The election will be conducted using STV. You should vote by placing a "1" against your preferred candidate, "2" against the next preferred, etc. If, at any stage, you consider no remaining candidates to be acceptable you may place your next preference against "Re-open Nominations".
- Note that although there is a requirement for the principal speaker to be one man and one woman, the two speakers are elected together in a single ballot. The counting procedure will ensure the required gender balance. Do not vote for the male and female speakers separately.
- All candidates filled in a standard application form. All indicated that they are contactable by telephone, and all answered "yes" to the question "Can you give the Executive at least 20 hours a week for the full term of office?" except Susan Miles who answered "Averaged out, probably".
- The nominators of each candidate will be available for inspection at Conference and at Party Office.

#### CHAIR

Jenny Jones  
(formerly Jenny Wilson)

**Relevant Experience:**  
Involved locally with Loominist Green Party from 1987. Joined National Green Party beginning of 1989. Chair of Loominist Green Party 1989 and 1990. Chair of Green Party Regional Council 9/92 and 9/93. Standing Orders Committee member 9/94. Founder member of Green Party Committee of 100. Founder member of Women by Name, an initiative to promote women in the Green Party. Conference Committee member for many conferences. Interim Green Party Office Manager for four months, 1995. Registering an MSC at London University, duration 12 months from October 1995.

**Supporting statement:**  
The Executive is the party's day-to-day decision making body with responsibility for ensuring the party's financial and political well-being. As Green Party Regional Council Chair for 2 years I was 'friend' to the first 2 Executive chairs and attended those Executive meetings. I

have since attended many meetings of the subsequent Executives and therefore have a deep understanding of its organisation, its role, and the stresses that can influence effectiveness. As Office Manager this year, I became concerned at the seepage of members away from the party and at the low rate of conversion of enquirers to members. I want to attract more members on a long term basis by making our unique politics more relevant and immediate.

I offer known organisational skills and a reputation for honesty, reliability, and efficiency, together with wide experience of the party's finances and workings at local, area, and national level. I will promote a more coherent integration of Executive roles.

I see the Chair's role as:

- Encouraging a democratic and creative Executive Team from sometimes very disparate views.
- Facilitating further coalition building with the wider Green movement, at all levels.
- Improving links throughout the party, especially with Regional Council and local parties.
- Introducing greener working methods that are efficient and quick.

#### Hugo Charlton

As a practising barrister in London I would be well placed to take the party pragmatically through a potentially testing time. At the same time I hope I would be relaxed and decentralist enough to allow diversity to thrive in a vibrant and united party.

In 1989 I was asked to look at the party's finances, a role I still exercise from time to time and I wish to ensure that we remain financially viable, both through fund raising and by controlling expenditure. I have advised Regional Council and its predecessor for a number of years and have lately served on it. I am familiar with the many different aspects of the party.

As Green Party Law Officer I have participated fully in a range of campaigns, from Poll Tax to Animal Exports, including M1, the CJA, and the Land is Ours, despite some personal and professional difficulties.

Using our limited resources to maximum effect I believe we have a unique contribution to make. We must take advantage of the vacuum in today's politics, increase our credibility, represent those who have been alienated by the current electoral system, and in particular consolidate our contacts with the wider Green movement.

We need a targeted and politically relevant approach to elections, combined with innovative direct campaigning on topical issues. We will continue to set the new political agenda by

advocating and creating a fairer, healthier, happier, and more spiritual society. And by highlighting our concern for the air we breathe, the food we eat, the animals and plants we share the planet with and the future we all must face. I will need help, but together we can make it. We have to.

#### CAMPAIGNS COORDINATOR

Chloe Wilson

**Relevant Experience**  
Involved with Loominist Green Party from 1987. Chair of 6th form environmental group 1988-1989. Joined Green Party in 1990. Conference helper at 3 Autumn conferences. BSC (Bristol School of Campaigning) Environmental Project 1994. Volunteer Project Officer for Groundwork Sept 1994-Jan 1995. PR Coordinator for Keele Student Radio's first licence. Assistant Parliamentary Campaigner to Ron Bailey from April 1995. Litter-pick coordinator at Glastonbury 1995.

**Supporting statement**  
Having been involved with the Green Party for several years and currently working as Ron Bailey's assistant, I feel ideally placed to make a valuable contribution to next year's executive. Whilst carrying on the campaigns I have initiated, I shall also be looking to local parties for ideas for future campaigns. If elected I shall prioritise the following actions:

- Campaigns Committee - there is a motion before Conference to establish a Campaigns Committee as a nationally elected body. Although this would not become operative until 1996, I shall be looking for volunteers for a temporary committee to increase the two-way communications between the Executive and local parties.
- Students - I shall target student bodies to raise awareness of the Green Party and its distinctive role in contemporary politics.
- Home Energy Conservation Act - I shall liaise with those NGOs currently coordinating action on this Act in order to keep local parties informed of their own councils' performance in this area. This will enable the parties to generate local pressures and publicity as appropriate.
- Road Traffic Reduction Bill - I shall continue to work with Ron Bailey on the Bill, both inside and outside parliament. The success of the Bill will be dependent upon grass roots activity, and we will coordinate a series of local actions with a national slant.
- If elected I shall offer a fresh and youthful contribution to the Executive and the party as a whole.

### CONFERENCE COORDINATOR

Miriam Kennet

During my year as Conference Coordinator I've worked hard to make our twice yearly gatherings into stimulating and fun events.

The conferences had become somewhat lacklustre in recent years and I made it my aim to revive them. I believe the conferences should enthuse and excite members and send a message to non-members that the Green Party is at the forefront of radical Green Politics in the UK. Thus I've worked to bring in a range of outside organisations to the conference so they become a political event in their own right - a place where experienced activists can contact and set up campaigns with others and where those who are often at the margins can get a good overview of the problems the world and its people face and our unique solutions.

The feedback for Spring Conference showed we are making good progress towards these aims: Attendance was more than double the previous Spring conference. A prevalent view was that it was a more successful, democratic Green and enjoyable event than previous ones.

I've been a member for 14 years and have been my local Enfield Coordinator, London Regional Coordinator, a co-opted member of Enfield and Haringey council committees, PPC for Enfield (attempting to oust Michael Portillo and borough and GLC candidate on numerous occasions. I've set up and hosted the Green Party's series of coalition dinners with a variety of outside organisations, fine food, speeches, conversation, and top level political debate. These initial dinners have already paid off because many of these organisations are now taking publicly to the Green Party, for example at our conferences. I will work with our high standard Conference team to make our conferences a premier event and a showcase for Green Politics.

#### ELECTIONS COORDINATOR

John Spottiswoode

I believe that I am possibly the most experienced person in the Green Party in co-ordinating and actually running elections. Before joining the Green Party in 1989 I spent more than ten years in the Labour Party. In this time I co-ordinated several successful election campaigns. In particular in both my area I moved from Lowestoft to Southampton we took several seats we had never held before. In both cases we took control of the local District/City Council this was before the recent surge in Labour popularity. I personally became a county

Councillor, being on the key P&R Committee and acting as spokesperson on various issues.

In the Green Party I have been Co-Chair and then Secretary of GPRC. I am currently convening the Strategy Group and am keen to implement our ideas, particularly as regards the General Election and for Local Elections. We are at a crucial time as we must gear up for the next General Election which will happen within the next two years. We have a realistic chance of getting some sort of Proportional Representation and we must be prepared to push for this. PR is so important for increasing our influence and getting our ideas implemented.

I was somewhat shocked when I joined the Green Party at the often amateurish and uncommitted approach to elections. Whilst I now appreciate the way that the system breaks down the will of Parties that are seen as 'electorally marginal', there is much we can do to be so much better. It is possible to win, working up from the most local level of government. We owe it not only to ourselves but to do justice for everything we stand for that we must become as effective as possible. I hope that you will support my candidature.

#### David Blackburn

**Relevant Experience**  
6 years membership. Have held officer positions at Branch, Federation, and Area level. Local Election candidate 1991, 1992, 1994, and 1995. Green Party Agent on 2 occasions. Was previously a Labour Party Agent for 8 years.

#### Supporting Statement

The Green Party as a campaigning organisation is fairly reasonably successful, but for the most part when it comes to elections we are seriously deficient. This is not wholly due to lack of media coverage or that we are seen as having no chance, but usually due to our lack of application when it comes to elections. In most cases Green Party Candidates are more able than their opponents and stand on a political perspective second to none.

I see the position of Elections Coordinator as setting a framework for success. I would, therefore:

- Encourage candidates to act as councillors/MPs in work throughout this year with a view to them being my successor should I be successful in retaining this post. I'd like to continue to serve the party in the best way I can and I think my experience, my knowledge, my good working relationship with journalists can be put to best use by standing as External Communications Coordinator.
- And furthermore, I enjoy the job.

canvassing (something that many Green Party activists seem reluctant to do).

**5. Hold training sessions to develop the standard of our Election Agents (which I believe is critical to any electoral advance)**  
For this Party to set its visions to the broader public needs electoral success, this can only be done by taking on our opponents on their own ground and using the traditional techniques that have brought the old parties success. I believe, in the present political climate, success for the Green Party is there for the taking, but we have to work for it.

#### EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

Penny Kemp

**Relevant Experience**  
Convenor, Green Party Committee in 1987. Member, Media Committee 1986, 1987, 1991. Co-Chair of Green Party Council 1993/94. External Communications Coordinator 1993/94, 1994/95. I have also been Maidstone Press Officer and Keel Press Officer. National Speaker. Written books and articles. I would very much like to consolidate the work I have done so far.

#### Supporting Statement

This last year has seen an improvement in our relations with the media especially the broadcast media. Despite our low percentage of candidates standing in local elections, sadly not enough for a political broadcast, we managed to obtain prime time news coverage for our launch. We have taken part in more political programmes over the last year than since the heady days of 1989. Slowly but surely, we are gaining credibility.

The area press officers networking is paying off. I am now sending out a regional newsletter twice a month. The amount of regional coverage we are receiving has improved thanks to the very hard work of the team.

Coalition building is getting off the ground and we have held successful meetings which will prove to be fruitful in the future. We're already working closely with Liberty, Charter 88, FoE, and the Land is Ours on specific issues. Lou Betts, PR Officer and myself have worked hard to build our reputation in these areas.

Continuity is very important in this role and I would very much like to introduce a member to my work throughout this year with a view to them being my successor should I be successful in retaining this post. I'd like to continue to serve the party in the best way I can and I think my experience, my knowledge, my good working relationship with journalists can be put to best use by standing as External Communications Coordinator.

### FINANCE & MANAGEMENT COORDINATOR

Nick Anderson

If elected, my first priority will be to ensure that the Party's finances are sound and that its financial control systems are rigorous. My next priority will be recruiting and keeping members by:

- Developing hard-hitting, inspiring leaflets for Party Office and Local Parties which promote environmental and social issues clearly, and are written clearly and simply and explain why joining is so important.
- Developing campaigns and information sheets which are relevant to people's everyday lives.
- Fundraising to employ a full-time media officer to generate many more enquiries.
- Forging a strong, efficient two-way information exchange between Party Office and Local Parties, particularly with regard to enquiry follow-up and member renewals.
- Investing in Green World so that it inspires members to renew their subscription and can be sold to the general public through newsgroups nationwide.

Please give me your support.

#### Relevant Experience

**Within Green Party**  
Joined Green Party 1985. Helped relaunch Leamington GP (12 to 100 members in 2 years). W.Midlands Area Rep. and Management Committee Convenor 1987-1989. Co-Chair responsible for management, finances, fundraising, trading and Party Newspaper on Green Party Council 1989-1990. Severnside Area Rep. on Regional Council 1995. **Outside Green Party**  
Marketing Manager then Operations & Personnel Director of a leading information technology and marketing consultancy 1978-1984. Director and fundraiser of national campaigning medical charity Action for M.E. (membership rose from 2500 to 8000 members, number of salaried staff increased from 2 to 13, turnover trebled to £300k in 3 years 1991-1994. Currently, self-employed environmental health campaigner. Very computer literate. Good desk top publishing skills.

#### INTERNATIONAL COORDINATOR

Susan Miles

I am a life member of the party, which I joined in 1979. I have been active in my local party since that time. Since Spring 1980 I have missed only one national conference, and since 1985 I have been involved on the international scale as well, first as country monitor for Sweden, then as a member of the International

Policy Working Group and International Committee, and last year as International Coordinator.

#### Supporting Statement

When I stood for this post last year, I said that we were entering a new phase in some countries, Greens were poised to enter government, and internationally we had the new structure of the European Federation of Green Parties. Events have borne this out: there is now a Green government minister in Finland; in Germany and Sweden the Greens have re-entered parliament, and there are encouraging developments in New Zealand, Australia, the USA, and even Japan.

The European Federation, despite difficulties, is doing important work, co-ordinating the Green movement across the regional and international Conference, and our party is playing an active part in this. Other encouraging developments in the last year have been the growth of co-operation between the parties of these islands, initiated by our friends in Scotland and Ireland (Green Islands), and the revival of our party's involvement in the Federation of Young European Greens.

This work has only been possible thanks to the efforts of many other people. I see the job of International Coordinator as essentially one of coalition building, across national boundaries, and would like to carry on with it for another year, to take forward the work begun, especially the "Green Islands" initiative, and the preparation for the ICC.

#### LOCAL PARTY SUPPORT COORDINATOR

Nic Best

I'm one of the "Euro-boom" Greens, I joined the party in 1989, having shown no previous interest in party politics. I don't identify closely with any factions within the party, but I feel closer to Oxford than to WWF within the broader Green Movement. I've been NE Area Coordinator since 1990, working within an Area constitution which emphasises local party networking and joint campaigning. Membership in the north-east is very low, most local parties have perhaps 3 or 4 activists, so Area support is essential in avoiding activist burn-out and local party collapse.

I believe that this is commonplace across the whole Green Party, though maybe not quite as bad, and my manifesto is simply this: whatever policies we adopt, whatever strategies we develop, whatever campaigns we plan, we cannot hope to make any effective impact, with our membership as low as it is. With under 500 activists across the country,

we are simply not "sustainable". We must make more of enquiries - the conversion rate of 1% to 3% is abysmal. We need to cultivate Green sympathisers and 'local supporters' maintaining contact, keeping them informed about what we are doing, and how they can get involved - and gently encouraging them to become full members. We must build on Alex Begg's work developing ways of re-activating dormant parties, encouraging them to attempt achievable objectives, and so gradually build up self-esteem. We need to protect our existing activists from burn-out by networking through Green Link and Area or county support systems. We have developed a multi-strand strategy including electioneering, community politics, constituency and regional campaigning, and NWDA. We need a membership of 5,000 rather than 5,000 to do this strategy justice - so Phase One must be RECRUIT!

#### Sue Walker

I have been a Green Party member since 1980. I have experience of being a passive member up to 1987; an active member in a successful and active local party (Dorset); an active member struggling to set up a new local party in a small market town (Abingdon - which is still going); I'm pleased to say, and an active member in a rural area with lots of problems (Wales). I've been secretary, treasurer, fundraiser, newsletter editor, press officer, campaigns coordinator, and local election candidate (3 times) in various local parties. I feel, therefore, that I understand what local parties of all shapes and sizes and their activists (and passivists) want and need. I have been Local Party Development Officer for Wales Green Party for the past year as well as its Conference Coordinator, and am currently editor of Wales Green Party's quarterly magazine Green Wales.

I'm a believer in lots of activity at all levels - that is, grass roots (i.e. local parties) as well as Area and UK level which is why I want to be Local Party Support Coordinator and a member of the Executive as well. I believe in the importance of being professional and respectable, as well as doing lots of NWDA - there's a place in the Green Party for all forms of activity. I'm not doing Green Party or community work, I tutor "Enterprise and the Environment" for the Open University, I'm a flexible and part-time and so gives me the opportunity and time to do other things. I'm contactable by phone, fax, and e-mail, I'm enterprising, capable, committed to the cause, a dab hand with my desk-top publisher, creative and inspirational with lots of ideas, I have a sense of humour, and I am of course modest and generally wonderful in lots of other ways! So please vote for me!



## GREEN PARTY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ELECTIONS

### POLICY DEVELOPMENT COORDINATOR

Martha Brett

I would like to see Policy being made by the Party as a whole rather than by just those who are most active in the national Party. I intend to do this by encouraging closer links between Local Parties, Green Councils, Policy Convenors and those already active in writing policy, and by limiting unnecessary bureaucracy like, for example, enabling motions.

I have been Convenor of the Built Environment Network for three years, so I understand the problems that Convenors currently have in producing policy. I want Policy Committee to support the Policy Community much more by offering help to Convenors, when they need it, and by reintroducing the Policy Community Mailing.

I would like to strike a balance between promoting the policy we already have and creating new policy. I want to see that the hard work that the Party puts into producing policy is used to its full potential by informing the "leading thinkers" of our day that the content of their latest lecture is already our policy. There is nothing more annoying, as a political activist, than to hear people say: "No party is prepared to consider problem X" when the solution is already in our manifesto. The more people hear of our well thought-out policies the more they will give us the credibility we deserve.

Currently I am working at the London Ecology Centre and have written advice leaflets and produced magazines, so I feel that I could produce Policy documents. My work there also means that I have contacts with a large number of groups both inside and outside the Party. I would like to encourage those organisations in the wider Green movement who agree with the aims of the Party to

contribute to the policy process.

John Norris

**Relevant Experience:** Policy Coordinator this year. Previously Policy Coordinator 1989-91, Co-Chair of Party Council 1991-92, SOC 1991-92, joint coordinator of London Federation 1992, Chair of Party Executive 1992-93, London representative on Regional Council 1993-94, Policy Committee 1993-94. Well versed in Green Party policies, policy community and policy process, from the point of view of policy writers, facilitators and users. Currently working on the Green vision, policy for Europe, Local Agenda 21, local economics and industry, and promoting policy co-operation with other Green Parties. Past contributions on Northern Ireland (coordinator), Europe, government, air transport, economics, workers' rights (convenor), health, peace and defence.

**Supporting statement:** I believe I have done a good job as your policy coordinator. I'd like to carry on next year. We have a large number of projects in hand. We need continuity, and several experienced Policy Committee members will no longer be available after long service.

For your decision at the Autumn conference we have an action plan for the current discussions on the future of the European Union, papers on Housing and Fishing, and motions, including a clear statement of the Green vision. For discussion will be papers on industry, Health, Marine and Europe.

We are making policy more useful and accessible. Welcome to the Green Party now provides every new member and others with an introduction to the party and our policies. Policy debates and contacts appear regularly in Green Link. We have improved the Manifesto for a Sustainable Society with a loose leaf format. To follow are booklets on policies for local elections, local

economics and Local Agenda 21, drafts for the next General Election manifesto, a policy summary, and a new edition of Making Policy.

I have told you what has been done, and what will be. I ask for your renewed support.

### PRINCIPAL SPEAKERS

David Taylor

**Relevant Experience** Member for 22 years, self-employed, 57 years old, director of an Adult Education Centre and Member of the Institute of Charity Fundraising Managers. Former Vice Chair of the Executive, Conference Organiser, Regional Councilor, Strategy Working Group convenor, NVDA trainer and member of CND Council. Funder of the Green Gathering, Green CND, the Rainbow Village at USAF Moleworth and the Green Party Committee of 100.

As Male Principal Speaker, over the last year, I have:

- ✱ Achieved extensive media exposure; including Channel Four Political Slot, national TV and radio news, regional television, specialist documentaries and numerous local radio programmes
- ✱ Frequently been quoted in the quality press and have been featured, with photograph, in most national newspapers
- ✱ Spoken at numerous rallies and meetings, including Earth Day at the Ten Days of Anarchy festival, an NCU debate on trade union policy and telecommunications, an Institute of Commonwealth Affairs debate on free trade and a power engineers conference
- ✱ Generated national coverage for the party by pushing new stories on. David Taylor's use of anti-semitic material and the case of Mumia Abu Jamal (the radical black eco-activist sitting on Death Row in Pennsylvania).
- ✱ Supported the Executive's general work by advising on the new style Conference, attending an European IGC Hearing in Brussels, liaising with FoE over

the Road Traffic Reduction Bill, organising the Campaigns Review and the Glastonbury Festival fundraising litter-pick.

- ✱ Visited local parties and debated at schools and colleges in many parts of the country.

**Supporting Statement** Its hard work getting the Green Party media coverage. It will take time to raise our profile but I believe I have made good progress in my first year as a Principal Speaker. I am developing positive relationships with individual journalists and a reputation as a competent speaker and interesting source of news stories.

My belief is that the Party should be more outward-looking and in particular reach out to young people. I'm firmly opposed to sectarianism and believe in building links with the wider green movement. Next year will see the European Inter-Governmental Conference. I'm committed to ensuring that the Green Party's radical view is heard.

The General Election will also be looming and with it the prospect of a referendum on proportional representation. Preparing for this will be a personal priority. Thank you for your support last year. I look forward to the challenges of another year of being externally-focused!

Peg Alexander

The Green Party needs to be able to firmly link the environmental agenda with the real social concerns of the electorate. My political and professional experience would allow me to do just that.

I have extensive experience within the Party at all levels. I am currently the Co-Chair of Regional Council and a party speaker. This work has included 'shadowing' the Executive for the last year. I have been a local election candidate various times, local and European election agent, Regional Councilor, deputy conference organiser and responsible for the

conference review. I have an all round knowledge of Party policies and the decision making process, and personal commitment to the Party.

I have wide ranging professional experience as a campaigner for social change. I am the coordinator of a national NGO organisation campaigning for employment rights. My areas of particular expertise include the organisation of work and industry, labour relations, poverty, the welfare state, housing and equality issues.

I have substantial experience of public speaking, PR and media relations work in both my GP and professional capacity. I am very at home with the media. My paid work includes frequent contact with the media. We receive a considerable amount of press coverage for our campaign, and I have undertaken interviews for BBC Network News, Kilroy, Radio 4 and 5, local radio phone ins, the Guardian, Mirror, Telegraph etc. I am responsible for representing the organisation and its policies as well as setting up the press contact in the first place.

My experience has led to an ability to communicate effectively and clearly with all types of people in a variety of situations, and I have experience of speaking at a range of forums. I am as happy to speak in front of thousands at a demonstration as I am to debate with experts and other politicians. I am a Green because I believe in justice and equality for the world and all its peoples. We must persuade people that Green support is not only support for our planet but for other issues such as public services, a decent education, a health service for all, democracy and empowerment.

I would welcome the opportunity to represent the full Green Party message with passion and pride. I hope you give me the opportunity.



### THE GREEN PARTY

consists of several thousand national members, who pay an annual subscription and thousands more local members, who are tied only to their local party. The Party is divided into 14 Area Green Parties; each Area consisting of a number of Local Parties. The Green Party's Regional Council (GPC) consists of 2 representatives from each Area Party. It's role is to express the views of Local and Area parties, advise on strategy, approve policy statements, and protect the party's democracy. For information about Area Party activity, contact a Regional Councilor in your Area.

The Green Party's Executive Committee (GPEC) consists of 9 voting members and 2 Principal Speakers. All are elected annually by postal ballot of national members. The direction of the party is entrusted to GPEC. Meetings are open to ALL members. Details of venues and dates are available from Party Office. Members can receive Agendas and Minutes by subscription. You are invited to go and see your representatives at work!

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### IMPORTANT NEWS

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L101 to L108 are now 3p each or £2.00 per 100.  
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We can produce leaflets from your artwork. Ring or write for a price.

We are also considering new ideas for stock and always welcome suggestions. One is a linen shopping bag with the new logo in green on a natural background. Another is the "Union Jill", adapted from the version used by road protesters to have the crosses in rainbow on a green ground with the new logo in the upper left corner. Still designing this but inquire if you want one soon.

A new leaflet in the Green Briefing series, No. 3a, "Gaining Access to Land": Housing Co-ops, Allotments, Grants, Squaring, Planning Law, Land Value Taxation, Wildlife Protection. All on an A4 page for just 3p each or £2 per 100. Only the Green Party could do it!

We also have a contract with Parcel Force which fixes the price of a parcel at £3.75 for a 48 hour service and £6.00 for next day delivery, up to 30 kg. In future, our maximum charge for postage and packing is £4.50 for 48 hours, £6.75 for next day. We are try hard to cut the cost of Green Politics!

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Winter 1996

No. 12

80p

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## message from hiroshima

Yoshiatsu Takamura

This year marks one of the deci-  
sive turning points of history, fifty years  
since the end of war, and the fiftieth an-  
niversary of the atomic bomb.

Post war Japan, looking back on its  
record of aggressive warmongering,  
vowed to make a fresh start, being re-  
born in peace as a democratic state. The  
principle of the United Nations Charter,  
that international disputes should be set-  
tled peacefully, became the absolutely  
fundamental principle of the Japanese  
national constitution.

Nuclear weapons are weapons of  
terror. We have to say that possession  
of nuclear weapons itself means "the  
threat of force" and having no intention  
to dissolve international disputes peace-  
fully, it is not permitted under the UN's  
charter. The Japanese government, un-  
der the military alliance of the USA want  
to say that the use of nuclear weapons is  
permitted under international law.

The indefinite extension of the Non-  
Proliferation Treaty has perpetuated the  
system whereby five countries have a  
monopoly of nuclear weapons; yet, at the  
same time, the opportunities provided  
by the renewal of the NPT have led to a  
strengthening of the consensus that the  
threat of use of nuclear weapons should  
be banned by the international commu-  
nity.

On the basis of last December's  
United Nation's Resolution, the official  
opinion from the International Court of  
Justice is now urgently needed. If such  
a legal opinion were to be expressed,  
opposing the threat and use of nuclear  
weapons, this would undoubtedly have  
a major influence in shaping an interna-  
tional consensus for the elimination of  
nuclear weapons. We ourselves must  
struggle to achieve such a goal.

The human race and nuclear weap-  
ons are absolutely unable to coexist.  
Until the last nuclear weapon is abol-  
ished, let us join hands to press onwards  
in our common endeavour.

Yoshiatsu Takamura is a lawyer in  
Hiroshima, who works among other  
things to eliminate nuclear weapons and  
for the Hibakusha whose suffering still  
continues.

**GREEN  
WORLD**  
Winter 1995 No. 12

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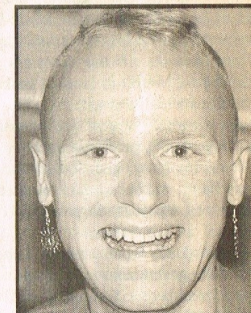
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## Ban live exports Not by protest alone

It was heartening to see this year's Labour Conference vote to ban the live export trade. However, as Carla Lane wrote in *Animal Protesters Bulletin* #26 (Oct 1995):

*"...we must be very careful that, in our desperation, we don't naively misunderstand what is being said: 'We will call for an end to the live export trade' does not mean they will stop it."*

She goes on to say that Labour would be as powerless to stop the trade as the present government, because of the threat of being sued by the exporters, but notes that promises are a good vote puller.

It is true that a Labour government would not ban live exports, but not because it was powerless to do so. Like the present government, it could impose a ban, and see off the exporters if it wanted to, but both parties lack the courage and political will to do so. The Tories naturally support live exports - it is a huge, highly profitable industry, run by supporters of, and donors to the Tory Party. Labour would fear upsetting the unions, especially the powerful NFU, as well as big business, whom it is enthusiastically wooing as *new* Labour.

The government argues that a ban would contravene European law. So what? All European states are failing to implement Directives which don't suit them at present, including Britain. For example, when Britain joined Europe, it took on a legal obligation to implement a system of proportional representation in European Elections. We still remain the only EU country not using PR - which is why we are the only one never to have elected Green MEPs.

The Liberal Democrats, like Labour, have only recently begun to seriously debate the issue, following the upsurge in protests, recognising another vote pulling opportunity. Note also, that decisions made by the Conferences of all three parties can be totally disregarded by their leaderships (and often are). Contrast this with the Green Party, whose Conference decisions become official

party policy, and cannot be ignored for political expediency. The Greens' policy in this area is emphatically clear, comprehensive and unambiguous, and was adopted years ago, long before the current wave of protests, i.e.

*"To encourage ecological farming in small free-range units, prohibit live export and minimise the internal live transport of animals, abolish the piece rate in abattoirs, and otherwise improve market and slaughterhouse conditions, and phase out all forms of intensive farming, including fish farms. We also prohibit the import of any animal commodities not produced by methods acceptable to UK standards."*

(from the Green Party's *Manifesto for a Sustainable Society*)

Carla states that it is people-power that will stop live exports, not voting for political parties, and that the only means of stopping the trade is via a legal challenge through Protest Ltd., a company she founded for this purpose.

But this alone will not be enough. Even with the fullest backing of the protesters (which includes the Green Party) and extensive public support, the massive vested interests and cosy relationships between the profiteers, politicians and judiciary will see the establishment win through as usual.

That is not to say, however, that these actions are futile. Every protest

is vitally important, as is the Protest Ltd. initiative, which we should all support. But ultimately the trade can only be stopped by politicians passing legislation banning it. They will only come round when they see the issue is threatening their precious Seats. Voting, therefore, is a crucial part of the process.

The continuing protests across the country, together with Protest Ltd.'s legal actions, the issue will be kept alive. During the locals elections in May, the action should be stepped up, whilst Green Party candidates highlight live exports as the election issue. Each should support one another, help field the maximum number of candidates, and cause a massive swing to the Greens. This will wake up the politicians. Remember the effect it had on them when the Greens polled 15% in the 1989 European Elections.

At the same time you are promoting the ending of all the other kinds of animal abuse, like vivisection and hunting, which are likewise dealt with in the Manifesto.

Tackling one issue at a time, even if successful, would condemn countless millions of animals to a short and painful existence because it would take decades to deal with every type of animal abuse. But it is a good tactic to prioritise one.

Local Green Parties and local protesters should be getting together and devising an election strategy and timetable, especially in export towns.



Green Party Law Officer Hugo Charlton addresses live export protesters at Dover

## Anti-Bomb scientist wins Nobel Peace Prize

There had been much speculation that this year's prize might be awarded to John Major, for his role in the Irish peace process. With the world in uproar over French nuclear testing, and the British Government's apparent complicity in the programme, coupled with the launch of Britain's 3rd Trident nuclear submarine a day after the Peace Prize was awarded, one hopes that John Major was not even in the running.

Greens were jubilant to hear that Professor Joseph Rotblat, a preeminent anti-nuclear weapons campaigner was this year's winner.

The Polish-born British physicist's fight against the Bomb began before the first one had been completed. Fearful of Nazi Germany developing the first A-bomb, Rotblat joined the Manhattan Project, America's A-bomb effort, in 1944. Always profoundly uncomfortable about creating such a monstrous device, Rotblat resigned from the Project when it became evident that Germany would not build one. He was scandalized to hear the Project's supervisor, US General

Leslie Groves, say that the real reason for continuing was to keep the Russians in line after the war.

Thus began this courageous and virtuous man's lifelong commitment to nuclear disarmament, which continues to this day. In 1955 he joined Bertrand Russell, Albert Einstein and 6 other scientists which led to the founding of the annual Pugwash Conferences on Science and World Affairs, which from the first meeting in 1957 to the present have persistently lobbied to ban the Bomb.

As well as Pugwash, Professor Rotblat sits on the governing board of the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

When news of the award reached Green Party delegates gathered in Southport for their annual conference, they unanimously passed a motion congratulating the Professor, and instructed the party's Executive Committee to write to him to congratulate him personally on their behalf.



Photo by Paul Freeley

## Mad cow BSE cover-up Maffia's Big Whopper

In a desperate attempt to hide the continuing epidemic of BSE in cattle, the Government is allowing BSE infected cattle to be passed as healthy and slaughtered for human consumption.



Farmer Geoff Nicholls had already some cattle to BSE, when he detected early symptoms in a another. The Government inspector disagreed, and passed the cow as healthy and fit for consumption. Nicholls, however, held on to the animal, which shortly afterwards developed full-blown BSE.

The Government claims that the BSE problem is almost over is a lie. They are also encouraging farmers to register their herds free of infection after an inadequate period of non-incidence of the disease, so they can start exporting at the earliest opportunity.

Like farmer Mark Purdy, featured in a recent TV documentary, Nicholls believes BSE is not caused simply by a virus, but that organo-phosphates are also involved. Facing the prospect of massive compensation, and even worse, Government officials refuse to even contemplate this possibility, let alone investigate it.

Meanwhile, BSE infected beef is still being sold to the public. Increasing numbers of people are now contracting the human equivalent of BSE. Could Dr. Lacey's doom-laden warning that half the population could go barking mad within 20 years be coming true? With the Tories still getting up to 25% in opinion polls, we seem to be halfway there already.

Geoff Nicholls story has been filmed by World in Action. It may have been broadcast by the time you read this - or it may have been suppressed by the powers that be.



## ROAD ALERT! Bulletin

**OPENCAST EVICTION ALERT!** The eviction of Brynhenllys opencast protest site in South Wales began on Monday and is still going! Protesters have resquatted houses evicted earlier...M11 security guards have been spotted, plus chainsaw-operators and climbers from the M65 Stanworth eviction in May. The beautiful Sellar protest camp, in the Neath valley, is expected to be evicted next. Get up there as soon as possible to help stop the eviction! INFO - 01685 873993

**A299 THANET WAY, KENT** - An activist, Iggy, has been remanded in prison until 3 Nov whilst waiting for a Probation Report. According to the courts this is for "his own protection"! Please send letters of support to: David Hilton (LW 0848), HM Prison, 46 Longport, Canterbury, Kent, CT1 1PJ. Please support a demo at the court on Fri 3 Nov (anniversary of the CJA!), when he is sentenced; meet 9am, Westgate Gardens, Canterbury. There will also be a 2 days of national action on Weds & Thurs 15-16 Nov. Accommodation available at the camp and squat. INFO - 01227 463368

**A34, NEWBURY** - The shit is getting closer to the fan! It looks very much like trashing work could start round about 6-8 Nov. Put it in your diary now! Regional direct action training for Newbury is available; ring 01508 531636. There are now 6 camps protecting the most precious parts of the route. There will be a walk of the southern part of the route on Sun 29 Oct. A national telephone tree is being set up; ring and get on it NOW. INFO - 01635 45544 / 45545

**A30 EXETER-HONITON, DEVON** The DBFO private finance contract may be awarded before the end of the year....which fools will take it on? Meanwhile, tunnel-digging continues, and treehouses are being made good for the winter. INFO - 01404 815729

Road Alert! PO Box 5544, Newbury RG14 5FB 01635 521770

## The Land is Ours

The Land is Ours is dedicated to the preservation and enhancement of land rights in Britain through media publicity, (peaceful) direct action and political lobbying.

Its aims are:

**Land for homes**, including the use of ex-industrial sites for social housing, especially innovative and communal projects; planning modifications allowing low impact settlers to live on their own land; and a new Caravan Sites Act, giving Gypsies and Travellers a place to live.

**Land for livelihoods**, including direct action to prevent the continuing destruction of habitats and landscape features by intensive agriculture; and the redirection of subsidies and planning towards small scale, high-employment, low consumption land uses such as small-holder organic agriculture.

**Land for life**, including the protection or reclamation of common land in town and country, a right of access to uncultivated land in the countryside; and enclosure of streets, playing fields, city farms, allotments, and informal relaxation and play areas; reform and updating of planning and public enquiry processes, so that development is tilted less towards the interests of developers; and the speedy completion of a freely-public registry of landownership, leading to the introduction of ground rents.

*The Land is Ours Campaign, Box E, 111 Magdalen Road, Oxford OX4 1RQ  
George Monbiot 01865 724360*

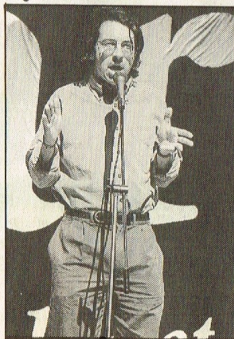


Photo by A.J. Woodhouse

**Call for action on breast cancer and links with environmental pollutants**

The death rate from breast cancer in the UK is the highest in the world, with 30,000 new cases each year and 16,000 deaths. The Women's Environmental Network (WEN) are calling for a National Action Plan for Breast Cancer:

- to research the causes and cures of breast cancer;
- to ensure all patients have access to high quality care;
- to establish comprehensive patient data registries;
- to increase opportunities for research training in sectors relating to breast cancer.

In particular WEN wants serious research into the causes of the disease, including links with synthetic chemicals and other environmental factors. We are surrounded by synthetic chemicals in food, packaging, water and the air. Some are oestrogen mimics - hormone disrupting chemicals suspected of being connected with the rise in breast and testicular cancer.

Much has been written about the causes of falling sperm count, but far less on breast cancer, even though it is the greatest killer of women aged between 35 and 54 in the UK.

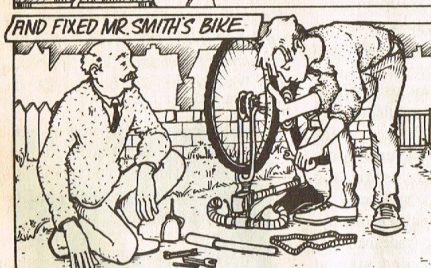
WEN handed a 30,000 signature petition to Health Minister Stephen Dorrell on 31st October on behalf of the UK Breast Cancer Coalition, as part of a day of activities to mark Breast Cancer Awareness Month.

WEN campaign on issues related to women, health and the environment. For more information on the above and other issues, contact:

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## Green Economics

by Peter Barnett

More than anything else, it is modern economics which is the root cause of poverty, disease, environmental degradation and social breakdown. The world economy is a voracious monster that no-one can control, rapidly devouring the planet's life support systems. But it is unsustainable, and sooner or later, will collapse to make the Wall Street Crash look like a Nigel Lawson blip.

## Beyond recycling

by Tim Cooper

People often think that consumer durables don't last as long as they used to. Is this true? Was there ever a golden age when cars, cookers, cameras and carpets lasted for 20 years or more?

It's not easy to generalise. Some products last longer than in the past: televisions are one example. On the other hand, increased longevity has not featured amongst the innumerable design changes to kitchen appliances: washing machines, for example, are thought to average barely a third of the life span of those made before the war.

Each year literally millions of microwaves, televisions and other appliances have to be discarded, as well as vast numbers of settees, carpets and, of course, cars. Some people argue that ever increasing consumption doesn't raise a problem: in future products will simply be recycled at the end of their lives.

### Estimated product lifetimes

Cookers	10-15 yrs
Microwaves	8-10 yrs
Radio cassettes	10 yrs
Refrigerators	10-12 yrs
Telephones	3 yrs
Washing machines	7-10 yrs
Cars	11-12 yrs

It would be far better, however, for products to be designed to last longer and to be repaired, reconditioned and upgraded wherever possible. Recycling will not lead to a large enough reduction in the use of energy and raw materials to enable adequate progress to sustainable

development. That is, unless there is a monumental change in people's attitudes and consumption patterns. The prospect of enough Greens being elected in time to make a difference seems unlikely at present. And yet we have witnessed some amazing changes recently - Eastern Europe and South Africa for instance. Growing numbers of people are rejecting the old agenda, and moving towards us, as they witness what's going on all around them.

This little feature concentrates on positive things that ordinary people can do. The article below outlines the importance of reuse, repair and upgrad-

ing of goods as opposed to recycling, although of course the first priority is to reduce overall consumption.

If the global economic system does come crashing down, the communities that will suffer least are those which have built up healthy local economies. Local Exchange Trading Systems (LETS) can play a vital role here - our article explains in detail how to start one up in your community.

Finally, an article on ethical investment gives pointers to how you can use the current economic system to promote Green causes, provided you've got some spare cash sloshing around.

There is a need for waste prevention through a reduction in the ever-increasing consumption of household products. How does all this relate to Green Economics? Traditional economics tends to assume an infinite supply of natural resource inputs and no limits to the Earth's capacity to absorb waste. Consumer durables with short life spans are the logical consequence of this 'linear' path of economic development. An alternative model which takes account of environmental factors is the 'circular' economy. In order to minimise natural resource depletion and waste, product life is optimised. Materials are only recycled when no further use can be made of products or their components.

This approach is not just environmentally sustainable but would actually improve our economy. Whereas a high proportion of our manufactured goods is currently imported, repair and reconditioning work could only be carried out within the British economy. This would benefit our trade balance, and provide much needed manual employment, thus reducing the public sector borrowing requirement. Such repair work could be done in small scale workshops, providing a means of regenerating local economies.

A new agenda is thus emerging for the green movement. How might it be translated into action?

◆ A shift in taxes from labour to energy and raw materials in order to encourage repair and reconditioning;

◆ Significantly longer guarantees, free at the point of sale, covering labour as well as parts, and lasting for at least 10 years for household products;

◆ Mandatory labelling of products with their normal expected lifespan, so that consumers can assess their real value by taking account of their anticipated service life;

◆ Action by central and local government to promote waste production and reuse, with targets to complement those for recycling.

*This article was based on the report Beyond Recycling: the longer life option, available from the New Economics Foundation, Vine Court, 112-116 Whitechapel Rd, London E1 1JE, price £5.50 (inc p&p).*



Tim Cooper, a former economics speaker for the Green Party and parliamentary candidate, currently works for the New Economics Foundation.

## Whose environment is it anyway?

### Conservation for whom?

by Jon Mulberg

Nature doesn't ruin itself. It is human action, that is, social action which is ruining nature and has created the technologies which threaten to destroy the planet. This has been going on worldwide for millennia, so we can hardly blame individuals, nor is there particular reason to believe technology will solve the problems it has created. It is social organization which is the fundamental cause of environmental degradation, and major social and political reorganisation will be needed to stop it occurring. Environmental solutions are political and social solutions.

This article will focus on one particular component of social organization, the economy. We will reject the idea that economic instruments - valuation, taxation and so on - will be sufficient to solve the environmental problems. While green taxes and Basic Income schemes may be a necessary component of environmental policy, by themselves they are insufficient.

The political and social questions - what is to be conserved? Who shall pay the costs of conservation? Who shall have access to environmental resources? And indeed how all these decisions are to be made and by whom - will still remain to be answered, but they turn into debates about numbers; about the levels of taxation and basic income, and the 'correct' valuations of resources. While all these decisions may be vital, they remain essentially political questions, and are subject to fierce political debate.

Economics is an example of the 'scientization of politics'. It is presented as a value-free science, but actually has an inbuilt conception of politics as technocracy, where only those with technical knowledge can take part in decision-making. Furthermore, The Economy and The Market (using the definite article) are presented as natural or god-given. In reality markets are simply artifices which societies use to help organise themselves.

Markets are not some sort of god-

given mechanism, but are simply sets of laws, rules and norms which are devised to facilitate exchange. In this sense there is no such thing as a 'free' market; market mechanisms are reliant upon powerful governments for their development and functioning. The question is not so much whether markets should be 'left alone', but whether and especially how they should be set up. These questions have a strong moral component, and answers must refer to equity as well as efficiency.

We should also reject the idea that economic value can be measured. Values are subjective, personal and private, and can have a variety of components, including both material and ethical elements. Economic indicators such as GNP are measures of economic activity, not economic value or welfare, and as such are not desirable for themselves.

We could liken economic activity to eating food. While we would starve without food, it does not follow that gluttony is desirable. Above a certain level, we should begin to look at what we eat rather than how much. Similarly, while a zero level of GNP would be disastrous, it does not follow that GNP should be maximised. Instead, we should look at the distribution of income and wealth, and make judgements about what should be produced.

We should stop attempting to use the promise of economic growth as a means of avoiding debate and decisions on the best distribution of income and wealth. Increased economic 'growth' is not an end in itself, and may not be desirable regardless of environmental or ethical considerations. The optimal level of GNP is dependant upon circumstance, and cannot be worked out in advance.

The task of Green governments would be to make decisions as to the correct set of market rules to allow for a sustainable economy. These rules would also include (probably severe) limitations to markets, environmental protection, fundamental changes to

company and trading law as well as income distribution. In addition, we should accept a duty of care to the citizens which the government is elected to represent. The task of government is to maximise efficiency, equity and ethical conduct, both in the short and long-term, and to resolve any conflicts between them.

All this talk on value and growth is more than simply a technical discussion. The point is that if values cannot be determined by scientists, what becomes important is the political decision-making process. It is this that is surely the essence of Green politics.

The foundation of Green politics is surely the idea that individuals take control of and responsibility for their own lives. Rather than having decisions made for us by politicians, businessmen and technocrats, Green politics is about decentralised participatory democracy, dialogue and civic association within communities.

Green economics is therefore bound up with Green politics. Green economic policy would emphasise quality of production rather than quantity, and would probably adopt a protectionist stance, opposing so-called 'free' trade. Similarly, there should be an emphasis on a shorter working week backed up by a Basic Income.

We should also adopt a far more 'anti-politician' rhetoric, emphasising the replacement of the current daft professional politicians (who are objects of ridicule anyway) with a decentralised, participatory democracy.

Green politics is about citizens taking control and responsibility for their own government, and will emerge when the electorate feel adult enough to make their own decisions.

*J.D. Mulberg is a lecturer in the Centre for Research in Public Policy at the University of Ulster. His book Social Limits to Economic Theory was published by Routledge in August 1995.*



# LETS

## Local Exchange Trading Systems

by Val Oldaker

LETS enable people to exchange goods and services with others in their community without spending conventional money. I may cut a friend's hair in exchange for a dozen eggs. However, if she doesn't want her hair cut, but I still want the eggs, we cannot trade. LETS, however, allows you to 'earn' credits by doing something for one person, which you can 'spend' with someone else in the scheme offering something you want.

*LETS offer enormous benefits to its participants and the local community:*

*Need your car fixed? Or an osteopath for back troubles - but cannot afford it? LETS Provides instant access to goods and services on interest-free credit with no cash involved.*

*Are there unemployed people seeking work in the neighbourhood, and others needing help or assistance, but lack of money is preventing them from getting together? LETS allows local skills and resources to be utilised, boosts the local economy, offering employment and wealth for all.*

*Have you felt lonely because you didn't know anyone locally and found it difficult to break in to the local community? LETS brings back community spirit. Everyone has something to offer, from gardening to baby-sitting, hiring out equipment or providing piano lessons. You can meet all kinds of people, share your interests, or discover new ones.*

### How LETS work

Each member completes a form listing the skills/goods/services they could provide. These are entered in a directory, together with contact details. If a member wants something offered by another in the directory, they call the person concerned. When the work has been done, or the goods exchanged, they are paid for using a special 'local currency' cheque book. The cheques go to an administrator, who records the

details. Each LETS scheme give themselves local identity by choosing a name for their local currency: Totnes use Acorns, Newbury uses NewBerries.

Each month, members receive a list of their own transactions, and a statement of everyone's current balance. *What is to stop anyone running up a big deficit and then leaving the system?* The list of balances acts as an early warning system for this situation, although there may be a good reason for a large deficit - for instance, in Stroud, one member had work done on a derelict flat, and is repaying 2 years later by administering the system! In our experience people seem more interested in what they can contribute as opposed to what they can get out of the system. It really seems to bring out the best in people.

### How to start a LETS

A typical system might start with just 20 members. LETS people are usually quite versatile, so this represents 40 or more skills.

#### Step 1: Prelaunch committee

Form an ad hoc committee, whose role is to organise a public meeting, where the LETS will be launched. Contact local green groups, Green Party, FoE; friends, relations and so on, and LETSLINK, who will supply you with details of anyone in your area who have contacted them about LETS. The ad hoc committee then gets together to set up the public meeting. It must:

- ◆ Book a hall, leaving plenty of time to extensively publicise the event
- ◆ Encourage everyone to talk to their friends, get letters and articles in the local press, advertise in any 'alternative' outlets: Arts Centres, Health Food stores.
- ◆ Get local TV and radio interested.
- ◆ Approach the local Council for support - some have given financial assistance and office space. Promote it as a Local Agenda 21 initiative.
- ◆ For the meeting itself, try to book a speaker from an existing LETS group to introduce the concept. Choose someone to chair the meeting.

#### Step 2: The Public Meeting

The introductory talk need only be about 20 mins; most people pick up the idea quickly. To further illustrate the idea, you could play a game, where everyone practices trading with each other. Give everyone a piece of paper, and ask them to write down ONE skill they may offer on LETS (it doesn't have to be real - one guy in Poland was offering food-tasting - a skill not in general demand). This means that everyone has a mini-directory.

Now start to trade with each other. Write down + figures for sales, - figure for any purchases. After about 20 mins, get everyone to sit down and add up their balances. When these are written onto a blackboard or similar, everyone can see that there are positive and negative balances, and that the system must have both to operate. Reinforce the fact that there is no stigma attached to a negative balance in LETS.

You should allow some time for people to ask questions (and hope someone has the answers!), then take a straw poll on the question: "Are you interested in joining a LETS in this area?" If there is sufficient support, you've just launched a new LETS group! Take all their names and addresses.

Next call for volunteers to form a core group, needed to organise the administration, produce the directory and balances, and sort out any problems.

21/10

### Running a LETS

Some effort is involved in setting up the scheme - forms, cheque books and the directory need to be produced, and so on. Once it is up and running, however, it only requires a few hours a month from an administrator equipped with a computer.

The first few directories will need to be produced fairly quickly, as you should be getting more members. After the first few months, a quarterly edition should suffice - with a new members and their skills included with the monthly balance sheet.

Don't be surprised if trading is slow at first - people are so used to the idea that they have to earn before they can spend, it takes time to get accustomed to the LETS idea. A prime duty of the core group is usually to get into debt, to show that it is OK and to get people trading.

### Your local currency

Naming the currency can be fun - you can run a competition, or brainstorm at the initial meeting. You must decide whether there is any connection with the national currency - i.e. 1 Acorn = £1, or whether you are going for a time based system. In actual fact, it doesn't make a great deal of difference, as each person sets their own rate, and can make sure they are valued the same as anyone else, whatever system you use. However, the psychological effect of having a system where everyone is paid the same, within fairly small limits, is particularly valuable for women and the more vulnerable members of the community.

Our system in Newbury suggests a value of 20 NewBerries an hour for standard labour, more if you have specialist skills. The spread of charges is from 15-30NB/hr, and most people really don't take much notice of the rates. We have found where a new member states a charge of say, 50NB on their form, they soon ask for this to be reduced, not wishing to appear greedy.

### Newbury LETS

Newbury LETS is 3 years. One outcome has been a good sense of community building, as expected. Much more surprising is how our attitude towards consumption has changed. Many goods nowadays are so expensive to repair that it is cheaper to throw them away. With LETS, you can afford to have things mended. You can also get clothes made on our system, for the price of the raw materials. And there is no excuse for buying supermarket ready-made meals when you can get food cooked on LETS.

### LETS facts

LETS are growing like wildfire. In 1990 there were 4 in the UK. There are now 400+. In Europe there were none 18 months ago. There are now about 250 across 16 countries, and growing fast. These follow the Letslink model with some legal variations eg Germany (LETS was banned by Nazis in the 1930s) where they have 40 "Talent" systems.

There are about 180 in Australia, and 54 in New Zealand. The US and Canada have only about 10 LETS each, but the US also have about 50 Time Dollar and Hours systems, organised along very different lines. The prevailing model is the Letslink model, developed in Britain, which is based (unlike some other propositions) on core values and principles of *localism* and *empowerment* (participative, community-building, appropriate locally, local control, accountability, non-private profit).

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## Local Health Service

by Liz Shepherd

Our local GPs have seen a 7-fold increase in depression cases over the past 2 years. They are now referring patients to **Lets & Mental Health** - a successful pilot project initiated by Letslink UK, Warrminster. It provides:

- ◆ affordable therapeutic treatments on LETS: massage; osteopathy; acupuncture, counselling, etc.;
- ◆ a weekly open meeting on different themes;
- ◆ a weekly drop-in evening;
- ◆ mutual aid/support between users, and between users and others LETS members;
- ◆ other goods/services (eg transport, food, cleaning, etc.);
- ◆ users build confidence/self respect by providing services and earning LETS; and build a social network, overcoming isolation;
- ◆ community support is attracted (donations from business, etc.)
- ◆ advocacy - welfare rights assistance (eg filling in incapacity benefits forms!);
- ◆ a holistic care service which offers far more than the conventional system (psychiatrists/drugs); when it's needed, and it pays for itself!

We just had a national conference on LETS & Mental Health which attracted practitioners/users groups from all over the country. Widespread interest and support is coming from NHS Trusts, mainstream and alternative practitioners, social services and the community health sector. It looks set to grow.

*For more details about LETS, send £1.50 or 6 1st class stamps, or £10 for the LETS INFO PACK, which contains everything you need to get started including membership, directory forms, model rules, intro leaflets, welcome letters, inspiration lists, artwork, game packs, etc.*

Letslink UK, 61 Woodcock Rd, Warrminster, Wilts BA12 9DH

Tel/fax 01985 217871



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For advice or more details contact:

**David Walters Financial Services**

Horseshoe Cottage, Brownbread Street,

Ashburnham, East Sussex TN33 9NX

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## SPECIAL FEATURE - GREEN ECONOMICS

## Ethical and green investing A Money Spinner?

by Klaus Graichen

**G**REEN is the colour of the US Dollar, the symbol of international capitalism. If you have no money it's easy to scoff at profit-making and interest charging as immoral earnings. But what, if after 30 years of earning middle class wages your nest egg is getting bigger and bigger, or you suddenly inherit a small fortune from your parents? Do you automatically become part of the capitalist system, or are there ways to invest your money without contributing to exploitation, pollution, the arms trade or animal suffering, and maybe even to help with your money to make a change for the better? And how do these "ethical" investments compare to more conventional ones when it comes to returns, and how safe are they?

By now the sector of "green capitalism" is well developed and you will find an alternative to most conventional ways of investing. Do shop around and get plenty of advice - there are lots of financial advisors specialising in ethical investment. How ethical do you want to be?

### Banking

Instead of leaving their money in a bank like Barclays (which had good relations with the old Apartheid regime in South Africa), most Greens would prefer the Cooperative Bank which makes a point of not lending to oppressive regimes, polluting industries or other offenders

against their list of negative criteria. It also compares well on account charges, but you may not find a branch in your neighbourhood

If negative vetting is not enough to ease your conscience, and you want to direct your money positively towards carefully selected Third World cooperatives, you may open a savings account with Shared Interest. But their low interest rate of 2% (gross) will attract only the most deeply committed.

### Building Societies

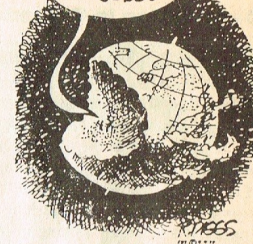
Most people would regard the main High Street building societies as an ethically acceptable form of saving money. But there is a way to be "greener than thou" by putting your nest egg into the Ecology Building Society. Their interest rates are reasonable, although they can't always compete with the big societies. They lend money on properties that would otherwise be left derelict - smallholdings, workshops, and energy efficient homes.

### Shares

By buying shares you become an owner of the company you invest in. If the company performs well you share the profits and the value of the share may rise. But if the firm goes bust you lose everything. You may want to use your own judgement on whether the Body Shop or Waste Recycling are green enough and promising enough in their performance to deserve your money, or you can employ the services of green/ethical financial advisors who advertise in magazines like Green World or New Internationalist. But don't fool your conscience: By buying shares on the stock market you don't really make a contribution to that company. Only in the rare case of buying new issues do you actually help to raise funds for the company in question.

If you don't want to put all your money on one horse, it might be a good idea to choose an investment trust. Here the fund managers make the investment

TROUBLE IS, YOU ENVIRONMENTALISTS DON'T UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF JOBS!



decisions for you and spread the money over scores of companies, thus minimising the risk. There are several ethical investment trusts to choose from.

### Unit Trusts

Unit trusts are similar to investment trusts in that they spread the investment. The difference is that unit trusts are not share companies themselves but hold shares of other companies for their members. As the buying prices of unit trusts is at least 6% higher than the selling price, they should only be considered for long-term speculation; otherwise the charges may turn out to be higher than your gains.

There is a bewildering number of ethical unit trusts, some are doing well but others not. And some are much better with respect to their set of criteria for companies to qualify as ethically acceptable. The financial advisers Holden Meehan publish every year "An Independent Guide to Ethical and Green Investment Funds" which may help you to make up your mind.

### Better still

If you are still in doubt about the most ethical way to spend your fortune, one final suggestion: Donate it all the Green Party and spend the rest of your life in poverty, but with a clean conscience.

### Useful phone numbers

**Cooperative Bank** 0161 32 3456

**Ecology Building Society** 01535 635933

**Ethical Investors Group** 01242 522 872

**Holden Meehan** 0171 404 6442

**Radical Routes** 021 551 1679

**Shared Interest** 0191 261 5943





# Letters

## Devastation in Colombia

I am an Englishwoman living and working with the nascent Green Movement in South East Colombia, South America.

It is breathtakingly depressing. It's one thing to hear of the destruction of beautiful forests and jungles when one is in Europe - that is bad enough. It is quite another to hear the gnashing and grating of a chainsaw ringing in one's ears daily, gritting one's teeth against the inevitable terrible thud that makes me and the earth shudder as another irreplaceable giant crashes to the ground. Or to walk for days on in direct overhead sun with one's whole body crying out for the relief of shade and water as one crosses yet another dried up streamlet.

The elation then, of meeting people - an ex-travelling salesman, a Green Councillor, ordinary campesinos (peasants), a retired police officer - all full of the urgent desire to re-educate, reforest, redirect, turn the tide of destruction. And the ensuing crushing depression as one watches them drown in a swamp of bureaucracy, impotence through lack of funds and despair. I put my hope in these passionate, simple, caring people, but they are putting their hope in me. I am European, and for them European means money, intelligence, help.

But I left my country, England, 20 years ago, in disgust and forever. To seek the 'natural world.' I am over 50 years old and have maybe 15 years of active life yet. I am travelling round the hot, flat lands of Southern Caqueta where the great rivers are half the size they were a few years ago, and where the only wild animals one sees are stuck on people's walls as trophies. I am making vegetable gardens for anyone who will let me.

It is entirely pathetic: people stare in wonder and admiration because I clean up plastic waste, collect organic matter to form a compost, grow a lettuce. All around is enough land to feed the whole region on vegetables. It feeds cattle for the rich, fat city people.

I have an idea. I have always hated giving money to charity, thinking, what

horrible bureaucrat is going to waste this? Yet financial aid is the most obvious, the most rapid and the most potent that the average concerned European can give. My idea is that small green groups should 'adopt' small local projects here, keeping in direct personal contact with the problems and progress, completely bypassing all Government interference and control, visiting whenever you like, receiving hospitality on our farms and with local communities who are trying to reverse the terrible tide of false 'development' that is engulfing them.

Letters of support, questions, suggestions all welcome. Please write.

**Jenny James, Caqueta Rainforest Campaign, Apardo Aereo 895, Neiva, Huila, Colombia, South America.**

## No health policy

David Gillett's article on GP health policy demonstrates once again the sad fact that the party has never actually had a health policy... A philosophy perhaps, but one which is no nearer to a realistic, practical policy than we had 20 years ago when I joined the Ecology Party.

A philosophy which appears to be based on the blythe assumption that all sickness and suffering will fade away if we can only get the environment and our diet right is no substitute for a policy that takes account of the hard facts of life (and death). We have to face the reality that there is little evidence to suggest that all the ills to which we are subject are related in some directly causal way to the environment. Of course improving this will bring enormous benefits in terms of improved health and reduction of disease, but we will still have the processes of aging and degeneration, viruses, inherited conditions, psychiatric illness, accidents - and all the many conditions we simply don't yet know the cause of.

Even eliminating environmental factors known to cause disease will take time and the benefits in terms of improved health in many cases will take

years, possibly for a generation. An incoming Green government would have to deal with the situation today, and would at the moment we woefully unprepared to do so.

The unpalatable fact remains that we will need a national 'sickness' service for the foreseeable future. Without doubt more resources should be put into primary and preventative medicine but it has to be a question of both/and, not either/or, with regard to hospital medicine.

Of course all this will cost a great deal of money, and it is unrealistic to suppose that there will not always be some competition for limited financial resources. But if the Green philosophy is concerned with providing a better quality of life (as opposed to the 'higher standard of living' promised by the other parties), the priorities are surely obvious.

So please can the Health Policy Advisory Group address itself to the task of formulating a detailed pragmatic policy which takes account of reality as it is, and not as we would like it to be.

**Dr Peter Wemyss-Gorman, Lindfield, W. Sussex.**

## Greening Middle England

What a great letter from Val Stevens in GW 11. Sometimes I think we can get a little carried away with ourselves and forget that we are hoping to represent the whole of Britain. That includes 'Middle Englanders' who we are dangerously setting up as an Arch enemy.

As it is generally accepted that it is the Middle Englanders who make the final decisions voting wise on parliaments, we should make sure we don't marginalise these from our policies, ideas and subscriptions.

Hopefully by ensuring we design and implement policies that attract these people we can get into government and begin to improve the life of the margins of society.

I live for that day.

**Peter Robinson, Barbourne, Worcester**

# Letters

## Left-Green Alliance

"Trotting off and voting for another party". You remember that was the problem Jan Clarke pointed to in her neat anecdote in last issue's 'Speakers Corner'. The radio 4 listener had agreed with 'the common sense' of Jan's argument but added "Vote Green?"

Perhaps she was one of the millions of passive environmentalists, whom some of our party see as ideal recruiting ground and who belong to the National Trust, the RSPB, or the local Resident's Conservation Society. Probably a nimbyist uninterested enough to believe her grey party's green claims. If told the contents of the manifesto, her trot'd become a gallop.

Or perhaps she was bright. Maybe she knew perfectly well that local government is not the only victim of the thrust for cheap industrial production common to the profit needs of capitalism and to the drive for raising the output-quota of recent 'communist' societies. After all, don't most of us know one or several of the standard ills of our 'rich' society, as our biosphere gets exploited along with the inanimate planet - being under and maleducated, unemployed, or overworked and under paid, fed junk, discriminated against, pushed into wars, badly or unhoused, fearful about ill-health now and in old age? If she was really one of us in this, she probably mistook us for still being solely a genteel party of environmentalists, not really concerned with her worries. And she'd trot of to vote for a no-hope left wing party or Blair's GNP-hooked new Labour.

The relatively small number of activists in single issue Green societies probably vote for us already. And should surely to be they are slowing greening their passive members along with the public, and should be left to keep doing



Look out Dover! This is what the Greens did at Hastings  
Photo by Caroline Sheldrick

just that. They're slowly greening their passive members along with the public and should surely be left to keep doing just that. Most may not be to hard to recruit. What's stopping them now?

It is with all the parties of the left and centre which the many more millions look, or will look to, that we have to open a dialogue. They'll need to understand and appreciate the steady state policies of the manifesto. Most of them know more about the exploitation of people than we do, so that it is all-important common ground. If they learn about sustainability from us, one day soon, there could be a large and powerful green-left Alliance is with offering a vision of hope and promise.

Heinz Dessau, Greystones, Co. Wicklow, Eire

## Greens not support Traffic Bill?

From the Traffic Reduction File #3, local Green parties appear to be lacking in commitment to the Road Traffic Reduction Bill.

While 81 MPs have taken the time and trouble to support the Bill, only 21 of the 213 local Green Parties have chosen to do so. Just when we should be taking the initiative and leading by example, 90% of our local parties cannot be bothered to put pen to paper to show that they support the Bill.

Ron Bailey and the campaigns team would be forgiven for wondering whether there is any enthusiasm for the Bill at all. At the very least we should say thank you for all their work by signing up to show our support.

Malcolm Powell, Harlowm, Essex

*Editor's note: The same could be said about over 200 Foe local groups, but it would be just as unfair. I think because it is a Green Party/FoE sponsored Bill, most local parties/groups have taken it as read that they support the Bill, not realising that they are supposed to sign and return the form to officially register their support. Hopefully your letter will help serve to put them right*



## But what difference can just one person make?

A n awful lot if you're a Green Councillor. **Mike Woodin** has not allowed the ruling Labour group a minute's respite. In his first year in office, Green initiatives have included:

- ✓ Continued pressure for city centre pedestrianisation;
- ✓ Proposals to close city streets to cars when air pollution exceeds health guidelines;
- ✓ Opposing the canal developments and winning temporary reprieve for a canal boat family's mooring;
- ✓ Gaining Council support for the Oxford LETS system;
- ✓ Pushing the Council to raise the issue of exorbitant rent rises with Oxford University Colleges;
- ✓ Giving pedestrians a voice in traffic planning decisions.
- ✓ Successfully proposing motions condemning the Criminal Justice Act and opposing the Newbury bypass.

He's even got them opposing the national party line.

## Waste issues in the west country

F ollowing a tip off from a Green County Councillor that some Devon County Council members were embarrassed by the slow progress of the Waste Plan, **Tiverton Green Party** investigated, and got a very defensive reaction from the council officers.

Undaunted, their enquiries resulted in a press release stating: Devon County Council has been slammed by the Greens for sitting on the

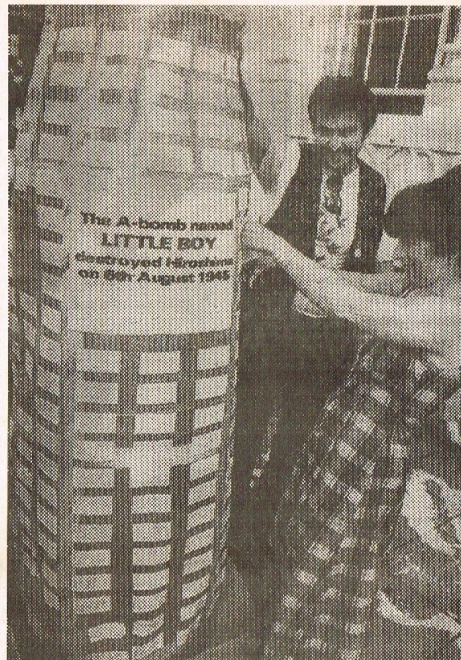
results of a April 1994 Devon Waste Plans "Issues Report" whilst at the same time processing controversial landfill applications.

Press officer and **Green Parish Councillor Martin Hughes-Jones** said: "The Issues Report acknowledged that waste minimisation and reduction should be a much higher priority than landfill and incineration. It looks to us as though DCC are sitting on this report until they have

approved either Aller Barton or Hillhead landfill, because if they approved the report first, it would then find it very difficult to accept either of these applications.

A report from the **US Environmental Protection Agency** stated that there is no safe level for exposure to dioxins, most of which comes from waste, giving even further need for urgent adoption of the report."

**Martin Hughes-Jones**  
Tel: 01884-821164



**Ingo Wagenknecht** of the **Norfolk Green Party** in a demonstration commemorating the 50th anniversary of the dropping of the Bomb on Hiroshima. He said: "We were ashamed when Norwich City Labour Council refrained from publicly welcoming 2 survivors from Hiroshima."

## Shop 'til you drop

C hristmas commercialism is upon us. Already Christmas goods are in the shops and advertising has appeared to exhort us to ever-greater spending. Is Christmas meaning less but costing more?

These and other questions about our consumer society will be raised at a discussion evening organised by **Exeter Green Party** with **Andy Pratt** of **Oxfam** the guest speaker.

Andy's theme "Live Simply That Others May Live Simply" will look at the problems of the Less Developed World caused by 1st World economies reaching ever-greater levels of consumption.

In line with the campaign for a saner, less profligate Christmas, the discussion will also look at the effects of rampant consumerism in our society. Christmas used to be a time of good cheer and celebration. Has it declined into a spending frenzy that leaves people financially and physically exhausted? Is there a better way of celebrating Christmas?

The possibility of creating a more equitable, sustainable and people-friendly economy will be examined. **Linda Willson** of **Exeter LETS** will talk on their role in creating local economies and developing a sense of real community.

**The venue: Bedford Room, Barnfield Rd, Exeter, 7.30 p.m., Nov 13th.**

**Paul Edwards, Campaigns Exeter Green Party**  
01392 423391.

## Christopher Clarke 1907-1995

by **Sara Parkin**

O ne of the Green Party's most loyal supporters and hard working London Office volunteers died peacefully in his home in Hammersmith, London on 23rd July 1995, just 5 days after his 88th birthday.

Perhaps best known to most Green Party members for 'personing' the Green Party stall at conference with his wife Lavender, and for knitting through the more tedious debates, Chris was also London Membership Secretary for many years.

Before taking up green politics, Chris was a partner in a leading London law firm, retiring in 1971 to take up hill farming in Wales. His former colleagues thought he was completely mad. So too did his neighbours when he started up a vegetable garden - in the hills, farmers kept sheep, in the valley they grew vegetables. His inspiration was John Seymour's bible on self-sufficiency.

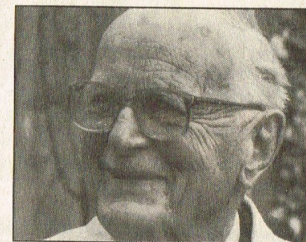
Eventually, Chris and Lavender and their four children decided to opt back in. Both intensely compassionate people, they were also influenced by other great books of the 1970s: *Small is Beautiful* and *Blueprint for Survival*, and later by Jonathon Porritt, when he was campaigning for the then Ecology Party in the 1979 first direct elections to the European Parliament.

The first party office that was not someone's spare room, was 36-38 Clapham Road. Two tiny, dingy rooms over a Chinese restaurant and down a corridor past a hairdresser and a massage parlour (with superb vistas over the restaurant's rarely emptied dustbins) Clapham Road was to the green political revolution what the textile mills of Northern England had been to the Industrial Revolution. During election campaigns, envelopes were stuffed and stamped by volunteers sitting along the corridor and into the street, and Chris would be there too, as late into the night as was necessary, invariably accompanied by Lavender.

As well as being unstinting with his

time and his work (his meticulous book keeping helped a little money go a long way) Chris was extremely generous.

Many a technological revolution in the London Office was thanks to Chris and Lavender. After years of painstakingly typing mountains of



stencils for hundreds of mailings, I still remember the excitement when Chris donated an automatic stencil cutter. A true revolutionary, he knew how important it was to keep the handle of the Gestetner turning.

At the same time, Chris and Lavender led an amazingly green lifestyle in their home in Upper Mall, which sported solar panels and other energy saving devices long before most other people's. Until only a few months before his death, Chris kept up his beloved allotment, to which he would cycle, as he did to Church, shop or post office.

What is not generally known, though, is that Chris's leap from a lawyer's pinstripe suit into the garb of a green radical, was not the discontinuity it appeared to be. For once, gardening had been to Chris the difference between life and death.

During the Second World War, Chris had served in the Far East, ending up a prisoner of war for three and a half years. For much of that time he was forced to work on the infamous Bangkok to Rangoon railway line which the Japanese wanted in order to expand their influence towards India. As many of you will know, the way the Japanese treated their POWs is now viewed as being tantamount to a war crime.

Chris spoke very little to anyone about what happened to him during those years, but he was in several camps - including the notorious Changhi on the River Kwai - and came more than once near to death. Wherever he was, and however weak he was, Chris started a

vegetable garden, encouraging his fellow inmates to add their 'night soil' to the dusty earth. Gardening, Chris said - the physical and symbolic act of seeding and growing vegetables - is what saved his life and his sanity. Chris discovered, through a lesson learnt the hardest of all possible ways, that a relationship with the earth was the all important one. The books of the 1970s which touched him so simply transposed his personal experience into a global one. Chris already knew that an intimate physical and an emotional relationship with the earth equalled life.

Despite his wartime experiences Chris's intense concern for people remained undimmed, and at his funeral, one of his article clerks, now retired himself, spoke with deep affection of his patience, tolerance and kindness.

The Green Party was lucky enough to have the services and the generosity of this humble, yet extraordinary brave and hardworking man, for over 15 years. We owe him, and his wife Lavender, a great deal.

Chris Clarke would not expect, or want, repayment. Thanks he would brush aside with a gruff smile. But he and Lavender were a devoted couple, and she will miss him deeply. If those of you who knew Chris were to drop her a note, or call over the coming months, he would, I know, be very pleased.

*Sara Parkin was Chair of the Green Party Executive in 1992 and International Liaison Secretary from 1983-1990. Her latest book, The Life and Death of Petra Kelly has just come out in paperback: £9.99 from Pandora.*



# Southport 1995

## Green Party Conference & AGM

### Building on success

by Miriam Kennet

Following the highly acclaimed Spring Conference in Weston-super-Mare, the Autumn Conference at Southport proved even better. Fears that low numbers would travel up to Lancashire were unfounded, as over 500 people registered, including about a hundred guests and stallholders.

Continuing the attempt to make our conferences enjoyable, empowering and uplifting, for members and guests alike, we once again offered an extensive and diverse selection of fringe meetings, workshops, special events and entertainment. Over 50 external speakers included representatives from CND, FoE, Liberty, CAAT, Land is Ours, Greenpeace, Child Poverty Action Group and so on.

The creche was overflowing with children, the review was excellent, and with the improved timetabling, everything went smoothly and according to plan. We hope to see everyone in February for the Spring Conference, where, after many years absence, we return to Dover.



Roger Higman (FoE) in the Traffic Reduction Bill session at Southport



### New policy

by Matthew Patterson

This year's AGM discussed a number of motions important to the Party's future. Perhaps the most important, and certainly the one which attracted the most attention from amendments and conference discussion time, was an action plan on the Green Party's approach to the Inter Governmental Conference on the future of the European Union in 1996. This motion attracted over 40 amendments, and was heavily debated on the floor of conference. The Conference reaffirmed the Green Party's position in favour of restructuring the EU into a European Confederation of the Regions, based on Green principles.

Also discussed and passed were two large Voting Papers updating the Party's policies on Housing and on Fisheries. While not particularly controversial, these Voting Papers helped to keep the Party's policies relevant and up to date. The Conference also began processes to update policy at future conferences on the Built Environment, the Philosophical Basis of the Party, and Agriculture, Forestry and

the Countryside.

Smaller policy motions were also passed confirming the Party's commitment to a publicly owned rail network, renationalisation without compensation of any privatised nuclear industry, prior to closure and decommissioning, and opposition to the introduction of identity cards. The Conference also endorsed 'The Land is Ours' campaign and the World Development Movement's campaign against the Export Credit Guarantee Department's system of subsidising the arms trade, and called for a military embargo on Indonesia for its practices in East Timor.

Internally, the Conference passed a strategy voting paper which overhauled the party's existing machinery for organising campaigns, and set up a new Campaigns Committee. It ratified the England, Wales and Northern Ireland Green Party's membership of the 'Green Islands Network', and recognised the creation of an autonomous Northern Ireland Green Party.

# Greens give EU one more chance

by John Norris

The Green Party narrowly voted to give negotiation to re-constitute the European Union one more chance. A vigorous debate ended with a vote, by a margin of one, for positive disengagement from the EU. The following day a card vote involving a larger number of delegates restored the policy of negotiation by a margin of 12. Jersey Green Gary Matthews said: "Several European Green Parties already support immediate withdrawal and I am convinced that within two years the Green Party will realise the fruitlessness of trying to reform the EU from within."

### Action plan passed

The concept of a European Confederation of regions and small nations, with greatly diminished central powers, was reinforced by the conference. It voted overwhelmingly against a federal Europe, even within reduced powers.

Representatives passed the action plan for the party's participation in the debate leading to the 1996 Inter Governmental Conference on the future of the EU, with some amendments.

The plan reaffirms a commitment to subsidiarity, to decision-making at the appropriate level in a European Confederation of regions and small nations. It recognises the diversity of Europe, and the need for local flexibility rather than bureaucratic harmonisation.

A change in policy gives the final power of decision to the more federal European Parliament instead of the more confederal Council of Ministers.

It was also decided to support consensus as the measure of decision in the European Union, and to oppose attempts to introduce majority voting, hence retaining the national veto.

### GETTING THE ACTION PLAN

Full text of the EU motion and policy statement is available from Green Party Office, 1a Waterlow Road, London N19 5NJ. Or by e-mail on Green Express BBS, file area 17. Comments or queries to EU Policy Review co-ordinators John Norris & Susan Miles, 5 Beaumont Ave, Richmond, Surrey TW9 2HE.

## Emergency and Topical Motions

### Emergency Motions:

**Trident** - condemned Labour Conference for abandoning principles by dropping its support for unilateral disarmament.

**Land Mines** - demanded end to production, use and sale of antipersonnel land mines, and for increased UK contribution for mine clearance and rehabilitation of victims.

### Topical motions:

**Major's tax** - condemned John Major's conference speech proposals to abolish inheritance and capital gains tax whilst reducing income tax, as a tax policy to benefit the rich at the expense of the poor, leading to a more divided, violent and less caring society.

**Rigid handcuffs** - noted dramatic increase in police complaints following introduction of new rigid handcuffs and their systematic use in routine arrests to gain compliance through excruciating pain - which is torture, and must not be tolerated.

**Professor Rotblat** - congratulated Jo Rotblat on winning Nobel Peace Prize for his 50 years campaigning for nuclear disarmament.

**Low level radiation** - noted recently published findings of Green Party's Low Level Radiation Research Unit,

highlighting health hazards of non-natural radiation sources and urged Government to take urgent action to identify and eliminate any such sources.

**Newbury bypass** - deplored Transport Minister Sir George Young's suggestion that Newbury Bypass protesters are undemocratic, noting that in fact decision to proceed with the scheme was where democracy was really bypassed. Asserted that Newbury's traffic problems will not be resolved through building the western bypass.

**Ken Sara Wiwa** - noted that Ken Sara Wiwa of Nigerian Ogoni is losing strength after 3 weeks of hunger strike to call attention to unjust practices in his tribunal, including bribes which it is alleged Shell agents were involved. To warn Shell that if he dies, and if the unjust treatment of his people continues, the Green Party will work within the Green Movement generally for a worldwide boycott of Shell products.

**Death on the roads** - noted continued carnage on the roads, especially child casualties. Proposed immediate measures to ban bull bars, impose 20mph limit in residential areas, priority for pedestrian and cyclists at urban road junctions, and fair and proper sentencing for drivers who kill or maim.

### Official Record of Green Party Autumn Conference 1995

(Full details of motions below are in the Final Agenda, available from Party Office for £3)

### Motions Carried

**SECTION A:** A1 with amendments: a) changes to order of amendments in Motion D1. Amndt 43 moved to beginning to become Amndt 1a. Amndt 19 split into 5 parts, each sentence became separate amendment - numbered 19, 22a, 37a, 38a and 41a. Amndt 9 split into 2 parts, last line became Amndt 38a (composited with part of 19 above). b) Change in order of section A, so Motion A4 preceded A3. c) Amendment to fast track Motions D24 and D26, and take them at beginning of remaining business. **A2, A3, A4, A5, A7**

**SECTION B:** B1 with Amndts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13. **B2, B3** with Amndt 1. **B4, B5**

**SECTION C:** C1 with Amndt 1. **C2, C4** with Amndts 1, 2, 3, 5. **C5** (causing C6 to fall automatically). (C3 was withdrawn by consensus)

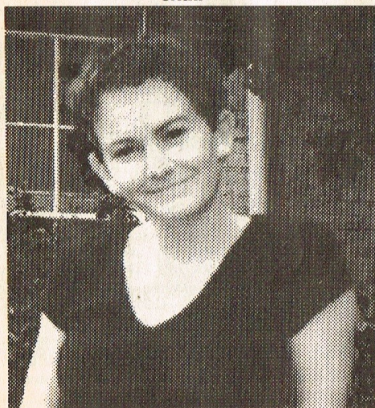
**SECTION D:** D1 with Amndts 2, 3, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 17, 18, 21, 22, 26, 31, 35, 36, 38, 39, 40. **D2, D3** with Amndt 1. **D4, D5** with Amndts 1, 2, 3, 4, 5. **D8, D9, D24, D26.**



# Women command new Green Party Executive



**Jenny Jones**  
Chair



**Chloe Wilson**  
Campaigns



**Martha Brett**  
Policy



**Miriam Kennet**  
Conferences



**Peg Alexander**  
Principal Speaker



**David Taylor**  
Principal Speaker



**Penny Kemp**  
External Communications



**John Spottiswoode**  
Elections



**Nick Anderson**  
Finance & Management



**Nick Best**  
Local Party Support



**Sue Miles**  
International



## School Governors

We want to know if there is an interest in forming a loose grouping of Green Party members who are school governors. Its role would be to coordinate and offer direction to governors facing tough issues like GM status, budgets, staff cutbacks and Ofsted Inspections.

As more Green Party councillors are elected to local government the number of Green Party LEA governors will grow. They need to be aware of Green Party policy in the relevant areas. This group might provide 2-way communication for policy development.

The group will complement and not conflict with the Education Policy Group and will be open to all Green Party members who are school governors. If anyone is interested please write telling me a little about your school and which category of governor you are. Contact: **George Forsyth, Flat 1, 67 Guildford Avenue, Surbiton, Surrey KT5 8DG**

## Media File

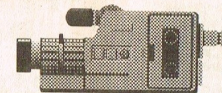
The profile of the Green Party continues to grow, especially at regional and local level. Areas parties without functioning press officers, please try to elect one, they make a big difference. Contact me if you are unsure of what is involved, and I'll put you in touch with one of our experienced area officers.

Everyone can help improve our media coverage. We all read general and specialist magazines and newspapers, local and national. Write to them putting the Green point of view. Likewise for radio and TV. Let's get our message across at every opportunity and resist being marginalised by the other parties.

**Penny Kemp 01622 890601**

## NOTICEBOARD

### Green Party Video Unit



Sharing offices with Green World (the alternative video news service) has led us to realise that we could make much better use of video - for publicity, internal democracy and of course, broadcasting.

We need volunteers to shoot new footage, stocktake our existing video library, and help produce and distribute videos. You don't have to have your own camera (though it would help!) and you might live anywhere in the country.

If there is an interest, we might be able to buy our own equipment. Or is there anyone out there with unwanted video gear they would like to donate?

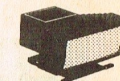
Anyone know anything about CD ROM? Contact:

**Alex Begg**  
16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds LS7 3HB  
Tel: 0113 262 9365  
email: [cornerstone@gn.apc.org](mailto:cornerstone@gn.apc.org)

### Always wanted

Volunteer workers still required at national Green Party Office in London. Travel expenses paid. Further details please call Vicky on: 0171 272 4474

### Greens on the Web



Green Parties are appearing on the information superhighway. We are planning a special feature about "Greens and the Internet". Green Parties everywhere, send your WWW site details and e-mail addresses to: [green.world@gexpress.gn.apc.org](mailto:green.world@gexpress.gn.apc.org) Meanwhile, here's a few to explore.

**Green Party of England & Wales**  
*Green Express BBS Bulletin Board*  
Details from: Julian Edmonds, 40 Hencroft St. South, Slough SL1 1RE  
e-mail c/o [green.world@gexpress.gn.apc.org](mailto:green.world@gexpress.gn.apc.org) uk  
WWW <http://www.gn.apc.org/greenparty>

**Green Party of Ontario**  
e-mail [greenpty@freenet.toronto.on.ca](mailto:greenpty@freenet.toronto.on.ca)  
WWW <http://onlinedirect.com/green/home.html>

**Irish Green Party**  
e-mail [gormley@iol.ie](mailto:gormley@iol.ie)  
WWW <http://ireland.iol.ie/resource/green/index.htm>

**De Groenen (Netherlands)**  
e-mail [oterhaar@knoware.nl](mailto:oterhaar@knoware.nl)  
WWW <http://dru.knoware.nl/maatschappij/politiek/groenen/groenen.htm> (in Dutch & English)



Conference Art Competition Winner "Most suitable for Green World" category



## CONFERENCE ANNOUNCEMENTS & BOOKING FORM

# Spring Conference Dover Town Hall 21st-25th Feb 1996



## Green Party CONFERENCE

### Britain's premier gathering of Green activists

animal rights, transport, nuclear  
Non Violent Direct Action  
criminal justice, health, education  
Local Elections Rally  
workshops, fringe meetings  
healing, crafts, videos, bands  
panel discussions, celebrity speakers

### ANNOUNCEMENT

The Green Party's Spring Conference will be held in Dover, from Wed 21st to Sun 25th Feb 1996. Please note that this is different to what was announced at the AGM 1995 and that the deadlines for motions and amendments are different to those announced then.

Motions for the conference should be sent to the Convenor of Standing Orders Committee (SOC), Matthew Paterson, whose address is below. **Motions should arrive by Thursday 23rd November 1995.** They must be signed by four party members. No Party member may sign more than four motions. Motions must be accompanied by a synopsis of 50 words, or 300 words for a Voting Paper. SOC would greatly appreciate motions being sent accompanied with a disk, or being sent by electronic mail as well as on paper, as this reduces significantly the work involved in compiling the Agenda.

The First Agenda will be compiled by SOC and sent to recipients of Green Link. An abridged version will be published in Green World which will come out in the first week of January. All Local Party contacts will however have a copy of the full version, but if anyone needs to get their own copy, then copies will be available from Party Office in London. **Amendments to motions, as well as reports of committees, should be submitted to the SOC Convenor by 11th January 1996.**

There will also be elections for members of Standing Orders Committee (2 places), Mediation Committee (3 places), and the new Campaigns Committee (5 places). Nominations to be sent to Malcolm Howe, 32 Passey Crescent, Benson, Wallingford, Oxon OX10 6LD.

Motions, amendments, and any other SOC correspondence should be sent to: Matthew Paterson, 114 Stanier Street, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffs, ST5 2SU. Tel: 0782 620599. e-mail: ira13@cc.keele.ac.uk.

### CONFERENCE FEES - Daily rate

Your yearly income level	If booked before 13.2.96 Thu/Fri/Sat Sun All in	Booked at Conference Thu/Fri/Sat Sun All in
under £10,000	5 3 15	6 3 20
£10K - 14,999	8 6 24	9 7 29
£15K - 19,999	12 9 36	14 10 43
£20K - 29,999	16 12 48	18 14 56
£30K - 39,999	20 15 60	23 17 71
over £40,000	25 19 75	29 22 89

### VOLUNTEERS

If you would like to volunteer please contact the relevant organiser now.

GENERAL ENQUIRIES/FRINGE MEETINGS/STALLS contact the Conference Co-ordinator, Miriam Kennet, 20 Arlow Road London N21 3JU 0181 882 0955

CHAIRING Jenny Jones 0171 701 0055

CONFERENCE TEAM Peg Alexander 0113 275 4084

ON THE DOOR Daniel James 0181 8015677 (urgent!)

PRESS OFFICE Penny Kemp 01622 890801

CRECHE Sue Bradley, 4 Broadway, Bath, Avon BA2 4JA 01225 428929

ENTERTAINMENT OFFERS Steve Muggenridge 01622 613413

PUBLICITY/CONFERENCE GUIDE Louis Lawrence 01983 855297

POLICY Martha Brett 0181 801 5677

### ACCOMMODATION

Limited floor space available for £3 per night, to be booked and paid for in advance on your booking form. All other accommodation needs to be arranged by you. Information available on request.

### CRECHE FACILITIES

Creche will be provided for Green Party member's children only. N.B. Places limited to 20 children only and must be booked and paid for in advance. No children accepted unless prebooked. Write with deposit of £2.50 per day per child to Sue Bradley at address above.

### BOOKING FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ Local Party \_\_\_\_\_

### Days attending a fees payable (see above)

Wednesday (from 6pm)	Floorspace	YES/NO
Thursday	£ _____	YES/NO
Friday	£ _____	YES/NO
Saturday	£ _____	YES/NO
Sunday	£ _____	
Floorspace	£ _____	(£3 PER NIGHT)
TOTAL	£ _____	

Cheques made payable to the Green Party enclosed YES/NO

Creche space required (N.B. Please see above) YES/NO

Car sharing: I can offer \_\_\_\_\_ spaces in my car to/from conference

☐ I would like a lift to/from conference and will contribute to the cost

Attendance status: ☐ Local Party rep ☐ Member

☐ Observer ☐ Stall holder ☐ Healer

I require the following information: ☐ Second Agenda

Accommodation lists of: ☐ Guest house/hotels ☐ Self catering

☐ Caravan ☐ Camping

Please send this booking form with your cheque made payable to the Green Party to: Miriam Kennet, 20 Arlow Rd, London N21 3JU  
More details Jill Harvey 0121 453 5838 or Miriam Kennet 0181 882 0955



### GREEN PARTY OF England & Wales

consists of several thousand national members, who pay an annual subscription, and thousands more local members, who are tied only to their local party. The Party is divided into thirteen Area Green Parties, each Area consisting of a number of Local Parties.

Green Party Regional Council (GPRC) consists of 2 representatives from each Area Party. Its role is to express the views of Local and Area parties, advise on strategy, approve policy statements, and protect the party's democracy.

Green Party Executive Committee (GPEx) consists of 9 voting members and 2 Principal Speakers. All are elected annually by postal ballot of national members. The direction of the party is entrusted to GPEx.

GPEx and GPEx meetings are open to all members. Details of venues and dates are available from Party Office. Members can receive Agendas and Minutes by subscription. You are invited to go and see your representatives at work!

### PARTY OFFICES

GREEN PARTY OF ENGLAND & WALES "PARTY OFFICE"  
1A Waterlow Road  
London, N19 5NJ  
0171 272 4474  
Fax 0171 272 6653

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8 Albany Terrace  
Dundee, DD3 6HO  
01582 29060

NORTHERN IRELAND GREEN PARTY  
537 Antrim Road  
Belfast, BT15 3BU  
01232 776751

WALES GREEN PARTY  
PLAID WERDD CYMRU  
38 Queen St. Aberystwyth, Dyfed,  
Wales, SY25 1RU  
01970 611226

FEDERATION OF LONDON GREEN PARTIES  
372 Coldharbour Lane  
London, SW9 8LN  
0171 738 6721

YORKS & HUMBS AREA OFFICE  
16b Byram Buildings  
Station Street  
Huddersfield, HD1 1ND  
01484 422920

### GREEN LINK

The internal magazine for Party activists.

All the latest campaign news, strategy, NVDA, elections, policy, Local Party activity, opinions, gossip, letters and much, more.

### HIGHLY RECOMMENDED

Available from your Local Party Contact, or by subscription. Send £8 to: 1a Waterlow Rd, London N19 5NJ members only

### EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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CAMPAIGNS ASSISTANT  
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01252 330506

EDITORIAL BOARD  
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York YO1 4YQ

### REGIONAL COUNCIL

Note: Several areas are in the process of electing new representatives to Regional Council, hence the large number of vacancies.

EAST ANGLIA  
Mercy Harner  
Regent House,  
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Shelfanger, Diss  
Norfolk, IP22 2DG  
01379 643468

SOUTH EAST  
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21 Sun Street, Lewes  
E. Sussex BN7 2OB  
01323 748271

SOUTH WEST  
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South Wing,  
Rumleigh House  
Bere Alston,  
Yelverton,  
Devon PL20 7HN  
01822 840751

EAST MIDLANDS  
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68 Peveril Road, Beeston  
Notts NG9 2HU  
0115 256579

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47x Devonport Road,  
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Close, Brentford  
TW8 8PX  
0181 568 1283

NORTH EAST  
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Chapwell  
Newcastle NE17 7BX  
01207 563280

NORTH THAMES  
Lydia Howitt  
19 Kings Road, Hitchin  
Herts SG 1RD  
01462 451208

### SEVERNSIDE

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Haydon, Radstock,  
Avon BA5 5TP  
01761 456681

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0865 248073

SOUTH WEST  
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01323 748271

SOUTH WEST  
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South Wing,  
Rumleigh House  
Bere Alston,  
Yelverton,  
Devon PL20 7HN  
01822 840751

Karen Westbrook  
4 Church St,  
Lywardroath, Par,  
Cornwall  
PL24 2QG

### YORKS/HUMBS

WALES  
WEST MIDLANDS  
Jennifer Kaye  
37 Gaveston Road  
Leamington Spa  
Warwick  
CV32 6EX  
01926 332965

Saturday  
18 Nov 95  
10am - 6pm  
Battlebridge Ctr  
Kings Cross

LONDON  
ECOLOGY  
CONFERENCE

Cycling - Nuclear Waste Trains - Zoos  
Local Agenda 21 - Ethical Investment  
- Socialism and Ecology - Roads -  
Youth - McLibel - Green Networking -  
Open Spaces - Sustainable London -  
All environmental groups invited!  
participation: £5 waged / £3 unwaged

£10 business or government  
for reservations, stalls, details 0181 4428640  
K. Graichen, 21 Spring Park Drive, N4 2NR

## JOIN THE GREEN PARTY MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

I/we accept and wish to further the aims of the Green Party and do not belong to any other political party. I/we enclose a subscription of £.....

### SUBSCRIPTION RATES

Single - waged £19 Low/unwaged £8 Life £247  
Joint - waged £26 Low/unwaged £11 (2 at same address)

I/we enclose a donation of £.....

Please make cheques payable to The Green Party

Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
THE GREEN PARTY  
Dept. M, FREEPOST, LONDON SW12 9YY  
Tel: 0171 272 4474



# The Green Litter Crew



## Amazing facts about Glastonbury '95

470 tons of rubbish generated  
(320 tons in '94)

50 tons was recycled  
(32 tons in '94)

150 tons of liquid waste was spread onto the farm's fields. It's extremely high fertiliser value means there will be no need for any artificial fertilisers during the year. So much better than dumping it in the sea, don't you think?

Glastonbury is the only festival to ban polystyrene and glass. For the first time this year potato starch based biodegradable plates were used.



The festival received £4.3m, but spent £4.2m - an improvement over the 2 previous years which made a loss.

The Litter Crew numbered over 1000 workers, who set new records, including having all the public arenas clear of garbage by Sunday morning for the first time, despite huge increase in numbers.



Green Party members and their friends make up the Litter Crew, which helps raise money for the Green Party. Volunteers receive a free ticket, food, secure (and fairly peaceful) camping, solar heated showers, massage, etc.

For further details, send a SAE to: David Taylor, Green Litter Crew, 34 Chandos Road, Bristol BS6 6PF

Guarding the Litter Crew's exclusive campsite from unwelcome intruders





T/SOR/4/1/51

# GREEN WORLD

March 1996

No. 13

80p

## *inside*

Live exports latest  
Charles Secrett talks  
Battle of Newbury  
The Green tourist  
*and much much more!*

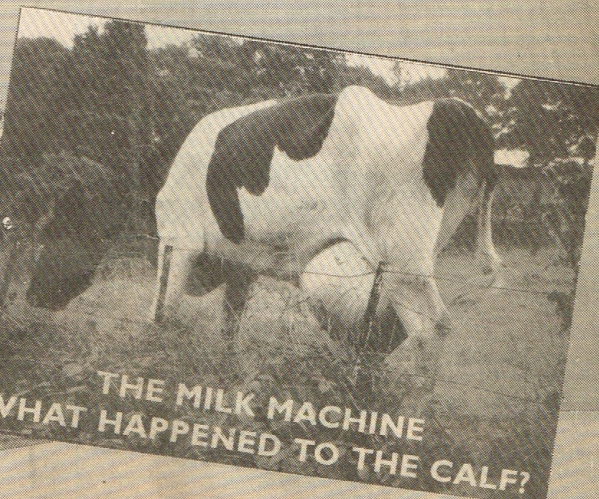
## *Special Feature*

## **ANIMALS**

THE LATEST VICTIM



THE MILK MACHINE  
WHAT HAPPENED TO THE CALF?





# GREEN WORLD

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Keith Mann jailed for 14 years, reduced to 11 on appeal, no longer category 'A' but grounds for fresh appeal warrants urgent funds - "JFKM", c/o ICA, PO Box 1135, Downs View Road, Hassocks, West Sussex BN6 8AA  
(SAE essential for reply)

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Tel: 01444 892762

## United we stand

by David Taylor



David Taylor

The Green Movement is no longer a directionless rag-bag of single issue pressure groups. There is now an emerging political philosophy that links together the different concerns and also a real willingness to work together.

This unifying philosophy, expressed through the campaigns for ecological consciousness, social, human and animal rights, libertarian democracy and nonviolence is, of course, Green Politics. As custodian of this new philosophy, the Green Party is the natural catalyst for coalition building in the wider green movement.

For 23 years the Green Party has promoted policies and campaigns, but failed to establish a coherent, united and effective green movement. That's changing. The Green Movement is coming together. The Porritt/Parkin initiative *Real World* has united organisations with a combined membership of 1.5 million around a green manifesto. The Green Left Convergence is bringing together disillusioned Labour members, green socialists, Democratic Left and others.

The Green Party's strategy paper *A Basis for Renewal* states that "coalition building is a precondition for political success". Since then the party has built coalitions in support of the Energy Conservation and Traffic Reduction parliamentary campaigns. It has worked closely with others opposing the Criminal Justice Act, live exports and nuclear testing, and seen a big increase in guests from a wide variety of green organisations at Green Party Conferences.

The challenge now is to turn this potential into a real movement for change. Labour's commitment to hold a referendum on electoral reform promises an historic opportunity for Green politics in Britain.

To secure and win this referendum will require a huge coalition - an unstoppable movement for democratic renewal. We can start in our own communities through local coalitions, such as green alliances, networks and forums; Local Agenda 21 groups; rainbow centres; community shops and art centres.

The New Zealand Greens, in alliance with Labour rebels, Maori groups and others, won their referendum on PR and now have 20% support in the opinion polls. They are an influential force with political clout. Can the British Greens follow their example?



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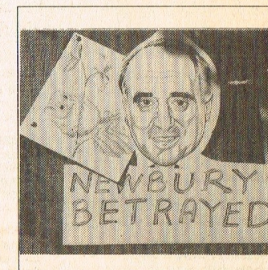
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Dr. Mawhinney unloved by anti-bypass protesters



# Newbury Bypass alert

The defence of the environment in the path of the planned Newbury Bypass may have begun by the time this reaches you. There are nine camps along the route, with about 150 protesters, loads of tree houses, plus tunnels, benders and determination.

But 1500 security guards were due to arrive as we go to press. The protesters won a Court stay of eviction until the 18th Jan when it's back to Court, but it's not clear whether that cover all the camps.

There are thousands of people on a phone tree pledged to get down there when the evictions commence if they possibly can. If you can help, call the pledge line on 01488 608388 or 01635 253079.

Already the establishment is stepping up the propaganda war against the bypass protesters. Local MPs expressing their outrage at these 'ragged', 'workshy' 'layabouts, etc.

These 'workshy layabouts' are beaver away building tree houses aloft, and deep tunnels below. They are enduring freezing weather in crude shelters, and preparing to (literally) risk life and limb in their defence of the environment - our future. Worthwhile employment if ever there was.

If you find it difficult to understand what is motivating these people to endure such hardships and risks, GO AND VISIT THEM. When you have actually seen some of the breathtakingly beautiful places under threat, you will begin to understand.

The single most important thing you can do to help is to be there. Numbers are all important. You will be warmly welcomed, whether for a day or a week. If you can't be there, lend your support in other ways. They urgently need tarpaulins, ropes and climbing



Photo by: A.J. WOODHOUSE

## The scandal of Newbury

The sleaze, corruption, bending of the rules and double-dealing that has gone on to get this road approved beggars belief.

And the hypocrisy of the Liberal Democrats, giving speeches in one part of the country about their desire for traffic reduction, concern about asthma and countryside protection, whilst in Newbury they have pulled out all the stops to support the bypass, spending public money to peddle propaganda whilst denying the local people the opportunity to consider alternatives. Their 'green' credibility will be forever dashed - the environmental movement will never forgive them for betraying Newbury - and entering in complicity with Tory sleaze and lies.

As the Bypass is built, locals will increasingly realise the scale and horror of the environmental destruction they have been duped into accepting. Week by week the 9 mile path of devastation will be highlighted on TV and they will see.

The route may bypass the town centre, but it still runs very close to it. Local Lib Dem MP David Rendel keeps citing how all those polluting heavy lorries will be removed from the town, but doesn't mention the fact that the clouds of emissions that will emanate from the bypass will still drift into town and poison the local people. It is not a solution.

But some will still think, it's terrible but for Newbury's sake, necessary. It will be 3 or 4 years later, when the new road and accompanying development have attracted more traffic to Newbury, which will become more congested than ever, that they will finally realise how the Tories and Lib Dems have betrayed them for their own political ends and vested interests. Although it will be the deathknell for local Libs, that will be small compensation for the irreversible destruction of their local environment, and the ruination of Newbury as a characteristic Berkshire market town.

### Planning a Winter break?

Experience the beauty of rural Berkshire rolling chalk downs, tranquil river banks, woodland, historical sites & rare wildlife.

enjoy it now before  
it's destroyed forever!

free camping

Fun activities include nature watching,  
tree climbing, vegan cookery and tree  
house construction. Free training given.

Be a part of the

The 3rd Battle  
of Newbury



The greenest holiday  
you'll ever have

## Nuclear power End of the road?

Clean, safe and cheap. The three great lies about nuclear energy, which Greens have always disputed, were laid bare once and for all when British Energy announced the cancellation of Sizewell C and Hinkley C reactors.

It is, of course, the fact that nuclear energy is neither safe nor clean which makes it so expensive. Ironically, it was the impending privatisation of the industry which finally exposed the truth.

Whilst a wonderful victory for Green campaigners, complacency is ill-advised. British Energy have not ruled out new nuclear plants in the future "when the climate is right" and, incredibly, still maintain it is the most environmentally friendly energy source. Meanwhile Britain remains the global dumping ground for nuclear waste reprocessing.

Finally, it should be remembered that nuclear plants were primarily built to produce materials for nuclear weapons - power generation was a handy by-product. The two are inseparable, and to be pro-Trident is to be pro-nuclear power, i.e. Labour and Tory and Liberal Democrats.

## McDonald's own goals

The McLibel Trial is the longest running civil case in British history, and looks set to run for several more months. In a statement last month by the defendants, Helen Steel and Dave Morris, they said the reason it's taking so long is because McDonald's is trying to suppress a wide range of common sense views on matters of great public interest which we naturally have an obligation to defend.

The issues being aired in court are the links between diet and ill-health, the exploitation of low paid non-unionised workers, the environmental impact of mountains of disposable packaging and cattle ranching, the effects of advertising on children, and the suffering of animals reared for the food industry. Effectively the tables have been turned and it's McDonald's and their business practises that are on trial.

McLibel, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX.

## Peace groups and Green Line magazine sued for libel

COPEX Ltd have issued writs for libel to *Peace News*, *Green Line* and 8 members of *Campaigns Against the Arms Trade*. Threatened with the same, the *National Peace Council* settled out of court, whilst the *Peace Pledge Union* have received a solicitor's letter alleging libel, but to date, no writ has been served.

COPEX (The Covert and Operational Procurement Exhibition) took exception to the terms that its activities were referred to in publications of the above peace organisations in relation to the November COPEX 95 it organised at Sandown Racecourse. *Peace News* is alleged to have described the event as "a market place for electro-shock batons and other torture equipment".

COPEX advertises itself as 'the leading exhibition for police and security

forces interested in counter-insurgency'.

One of its exhibitors is British Aerospace's Royal Ordnance Division, which sells electro-shock equipment. Visitors to the exhibition have included representatives from states noted for internal repression such as Algeria, Colombia, Iran, Israel, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Turkey. You may draw your own conclusions.

CAAT, GL and PN all plan to defend themselves, and have set up fighting funds to raise the cash needed to fight the action. If you can help, contact: CAAT, Freepost LON 6486, London N4 9DX.

GREEN LINE, PO Box 5, Lostwithiel, Cornwall PL22 0YT.

PEACE NEWS, 5 Caledonian Road, London N1 9DX.

BELOW: Detail from an advertisement for last year's COPEX security equipment fair. In the run up to the cancelled Bonn COPEX last June, a company press release stated that "COPEX is not an arms fair". While it is true that only a minority of exhibiting companies show weapons at these events, one might be forgiven for expecting more from the imagery used in the COPEX advert.





## Duke of Westminster voted Britain's worst landowner

by Penny Kemp

The judges of Britain's first ever competition for best and worst landowners selected the Duke of Westminster for hostile attitudes towards access, intrusive powers over residents, and failure to exercise the responsibilities for reform incumbent upon the owner of such huge and rich estates. By contrast, Daphne Buxton, voted Britain's best landowner, created England's first new common this century in the village of Rushall, Norfolk.

Scores of nominations for both categories were sent in by the public, citing access to land, environmental policies, treatment of the homeless, walkers, employees, travellers, gypsies and tenants. Details were checked by *The Land is Ours* researchers before being passed to the panel of judges - Charles Secrett (Director, Friends of the Earth), John Vidal (Environment Editor, The Guardian) and Jan Clark (Principal Speaker, The Green Party).

### The Worst

Duke of Westminster's representatives are, uniquely, empowered to enter homes in his London estate without a warrant or the owner's permission, even freeholders. Residents complained that his company, The Grosvenor Estate has more powers than the police.

When it comes to the Duke's own privacy, however, he defends it with vigour. 90% of his vast Forest of Bowland moors in Lancashire are closed to the public. The Ramblers Association has been trying to negotiate access but the Duke's representatives will not even discuss its proposals. Ornithologists have reported a dearth of grouse predators such as peregrine falcons, hen harriers and short eared owls on the moors. The cause is unknown because scientists have been refused permission to investigate there. The Grosvenor Estate was also nominated for insensitive redevelopment in Cambridge.

### The best

Daphne Buxton gave 3 acres of meadows bordering Rushall to the parish council, but was concerned they could be sold to developers.

So first she turned them into a common and provided an endowment for its management. She has spent a lot of money maintaining the land for wildlife and recreation. She's creating a forest glade, species-rich scrubland; plans grazing the meadows to encourage cowslips and other rare flowers, and has cleared out one pond and built another for children's pond-dipping. She encourages local schools to conduct nature trails on the land, which is closed to motor vehicles.

The common is a rare example of sensitively managed land amidst an increasingly homogenous arable landscape. Daphne is warmly commended for her generous response to the needs of local people and her recognition that good management and public access can go hand in hand. She shows how the rights of the landowner can be balanced by the needs of others.

Runner up Andy Scrase allows open access to her 60 acres for walkers across her fields and wood. The farm has been a temporary home for travellers and homeless people. She has created a pond, shelter belts and new copses, and has protected the woodland from grazing and badger baiters, by whom she has been threatened. She gave land to the council to build sheltered housing for elderly people. Her building in Llandiloos is used, rent-free, by people with special needs running a craft shop and community resource centre offering computer and communication training.

### Full results

#### Worst Landowners

**Duke of Westminster** (The Grosvenor Estate). Joint runners up: **David Pipe**, Maidendown Common, Devon; **Elitestone**, run by Tim Jones, of Swansea, and **The Hon Robin Cayzer**, son of Lord Rotherwick, Cornbury Estates, Oxon.

#### Best Landowners

**Daphne Buxton**, Rushall. Runner Up: **Dr Andy Scrase**, Prospect Farm, near Llandiloos in Powys.

*The Land is Ours is a radical campaign for land rights in Britain, seeking access to the land itself and the decision making processes affecting it.*



## Smile please You're on camera

Since it went a bit quiet in Northern Ireland, anti-terrorist detectives have had to look elsewhere to justify their existence, and turned their attention to animal rights, anti-road, peace and anti-CJA protesters.

According to top bod David Tucker, animal rights protesters are now the biggest threat to national security! However, *"The ordinary protester has got nothing to fear - the people we are interested in are extremists who use criminal tactics or commit public order offences to achieve their ends"*. He then contradicts himself by revealing that ARNI (the Animal Rights National Index) is building up files of everyone who attends animal rights demos, because although people start off with peaceful intentions they could end up violent in the future.

Police equipped with video surveillance equipment is now a regular occurrence at demonstrations. At a recent Critical Mass event in Brighton, police tracked and recorded the 70 or so cyclists, with the help of a helicopter (costing a mere £1200 per hour to keep in the air). Local councillors agreed with the police that these cyclists needed a close eye kept on them (*about time Brighton elected a Green councillor or two*).

The police are less enthusiastic when the cameras are focused on them. On many occasions protesters have been arrested, and had their camcorders confiscated or damaged whilst attempting to film the police in action at demonstrations. Police have fired flash guns at protesters lenses, leaving the operator temporarily blinded. Protesters' recordings have been used in court to show police deliberately fabricating evidence.

Source: SCHNEWS

## Get yer hair cut! Green Party to campaign against Jobseekers Allowance

Despite being another devastating attack on the welfare state and the less well off, opposition to the Jobseekers Allowance (JSA) from the main opposition parties has been pathetic. Not enough votes in it. So, like the Poll Tax, where the Greens were the only party to support non-payment, they are planning a campaign to vociferously oppose the JSA.

From October next year, Income Support and Unemployment Benefit will be replaced by a single benefit - the JSA. The conditions to qualify for it will be much more stringent, and the Employment Service will have wider, more arbitrary powers to deny people benefits. They will demand claimants 'make themselves more employable' or forfeit their benefits.

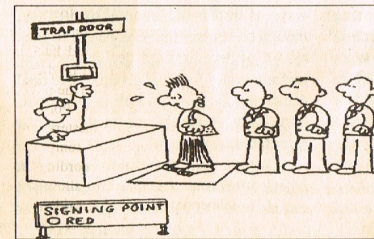
Claimants may be required to attend 'training' courses, welfare schemes, or even have haircuts and dress appropriately to make themselves 'more presentable to employers'. Failure to comply could result in the withdrawal of all state benefits. Hardship payments, which presently pay 60% of withdrawn benefit will be abolished altogether.

The JSA will deny tens of thousands of unemployed people of benefits. They will consequently no longer count in the unemployment figures, and the Government will again have reduced unemployment without putting a single person back to work! In fact, through this 'simplification' of the benefit system, they hope to shed over 10,000 workers from the DSS and Employment Service.

Through the JSA the Government plans to remove benefits from large swathes of the unemployed who don't conform to their liking. Like the Criminal Justice Act, it is an attack on 'undesirable' lifestyles, this time by removing their very means of subsistence. Direct action environmental campaigners are one such target, but, just like the CJA, the JSA will only serve to strengthen peoples resolve, and protests will escalate.

The JSA threatens those in work too. Running down the welfare state and increasing insecurity helps create a low wage/high profit economy where workers are forced to accept worse pay and conditions or be replaced by others desperately seeking employment.

The Green Party will not simply campaign against the JSA, but put forward realistic alternatives, based around its Land Tax and Basic Income schemes (see page 25), including the whole question of what is understood by 'work'.



## Working For a Green Future by John Watson

Can we protect the environment and jobs at the same time? We see gathering support for anti-road campaigns, but what about the jobs involved? What about the jobs in the nuclear industry, or open-cast mining?

The "Jobs and the Environment" project aims to overcome trade union fears about environmental policies. We are facing an ecological crisis - global warming, acid rain, poor air and water quality, the list goes on. Yet a belief persists that environmental protection must be paid for in economic growth and jobs. How justified are these fears? Consider the following examples:

- ✓ upgrading the West Coast Main Line would produce twice as many jobs as the same investment in new roads.
- ✓ investment in energy efficiency creates 50% more jobs than producing new energy supplies.

✓ new environmental industries employ over 100,000 people in the UK and the figure is growing rapidly.

Taxing resource use and pollution instead of national insurance would discourage environmental damage and reduce employment costs (without lowering take-home pay) creating a boost for employment. Green ideas employ human resources positively.

The "Jobs and the Environment" project is based around the production and distribution of educational materials including a cartoon wallchart which will brighten any workplace.

The conference detailed below will be attended by some 500 trade unionists, environmentalists and Labour activists and should prove to be a landmark in the development of trade union thinking.

John Watson SERA Co-ordinator

S · E · R · A  
LABOUR ENVIRONMENT CAMPAIGN

public conference

## "Working for a Green Future" - sustainability, full employment and the quality of life -

John Monks - Jonathon Porritt - Pauline Green MEP  
Chris Smith MP - Joan Ruddock MP - John Edmunds

Sat. 17th February 1996, 10am-5pm  
Westminster Central Hall, London

UNISON

tickets in advance: £8 (£4 unwaged)  
tickets on the day: £9 (£5 unwaged)

cheques payable to "SERA"

Considering job creation and enhancement through  
environmental policies and the changing nature of work.

Tickets / information: SERA, 11 Goodwin Street, London, N4 3HQ. 0171 263 7389

## Who cares wins!

Last year a group of activists broke away from Greenpeace to concentrate on anti-whaling & marine protection campaigns. They formed BREACH. With the world's whales still under severe threat, the campaigners believe a full time, year round campaign is necessary to ensure the survival of the mammals.

BREACH have spent the last year in preparation for the campaign - acquiring inflatable boats, ultra-light aircraft etc., and their first ship. The 163 ton, 103 foot Motor Vessel Skorpis is undergoing a major refit, but to be ready for the whaling season,

BREACH need to raise £50,000 by April 1996.

The NV Skorpis will use non-violent direct action to harass whaling fleets, and raise awareness by using fixed and remote cameras to film the activities of the whalers - pictures will be relayed live through the Internet to over 30 million people worldwide!

Please pledge your help. Join the Campaign Crew NOW!

BREACH, St. John St, Goole, Yorks  
DN14 5QL Tel/fax 01405 769375  
David Smith/Graham Game



## Director: Friends of the Earth Charles Secrett

*Calling for a more united Green movement, which positively supports the Green Party*

Interviewed by Lou Betts

After what Charles Secrett regarded an idyllic childhood in and around Guildford, forming the bedrock of his love for nature, he first became aware of the burgeoning environmental movement during a spell at university in America. His first campaign involvement concerned the threat from development of a stretch of pristine coastline near to the campus in North Carolina.

However, on returning to Britain in 1977 his first chosen career was as a residential children's social worker. He had wanted to help disadvantaged people since his teenage years, but the lure of the environmental campaigns movement proved too much, and after two years Charles set about looking to work full time for the environment; at the time this was more or less exclusively FoE and Greenpeace. In 1980 he was offered the wildlife campaign job at FoE and various campaign positions followed up to 1989.

After a spell in Brazil researching and doing various freelance work, financial circumstances forced him back to England, where he concentrated on climate change with IIED and various pieces of freelance work. In 1992 when the FoE Director's job was advertised Charles didn't apply. An appointment was not made and the post was readvertised whereupon he decided he "had to apply for the job, even if it was just to be turned down". He wasn't, and took up the post in April 1993.

### Post Rio challenge

Three years on from Rio, Charles is still fairly upbeat about the process and the hopes for the future. "The Rio Summit was the acme of achievement for the environmental movement", after 30 years of campaigning, "the biggest political

gathering that there's ever been, even larger than last year's 50th birthday UN celebrations, endorsed the environmentalists' agenda, and agreed that these are problems that are manifesting themselves at a global, national and local scale that we cannot perpetuate".

Charles feels that we are now in a difficult transitional period of agenda setting and campaigning in terms of keeping up the pressure. He quotes in particular the road building programme, energy issues and, topically, eco-criminals. "It's not enough to say we can't carry on like this any more, everyone knows that", he says. "What they don't know is how to move forward".

**"I believe we're beginning to see for the first time a possibly coordinated, certainly purposeful attack on the politics of pressure groups in a democracy"**

Charles firmly believes that FoE has an excellent track record of stating positively what it is for just as much as what it is against. He sees that as an opportunity to build upon with more creative and diversified campaigns. But for the whole movement to move forward it requires "developing the issues and agenda that we work on, and the tactical approaches we take, which is part of the pressure that's on the environmental movement as a whole".

### Backlash against Greens

Charles may well have been thinking about the road protest or animal welfare lobby this year; a new type of action may grab the headlines for a while, but it's not long before business as usual ensues, and the pressure on groups and individuals to find ever more creative ways to alert the media and the public is immense.

"But", says Charles with some caution, "I believe we're beginning to see for the first time a possibly coordinated, certainly purposeful attack on the politics of pressure groups in a democracy". He sees key environmental groups being questioned for what they do, "most obviously Greenpeace, but this has a fallout effect and challenges us all.

We're seeing the backlash that's been brewing in the States now moving into this country and Europe, against a movement that had been so successful that it was challenging things that were starting to hurt, as far as the establishment was concerned".

The counter attack is everything from Richard North's book (ICI sponsored), the recent Pearce furore, media reaction to Greenpeace's Brent Spa apology and the Criminal Justice Act. At the present, Shell seem content to continue operations in Nigeria with impunity.

Within FoE, Charles is looking at ways of improving internal democracy, though he stresses that FoE has had a long record of decentralised decision-making and autonomy for local groups. The final decision maker within FoE is the Board, a majority of whom are locally elected representatives.

"We're currently looking at a redefined Board structure to give more authority to these elected representatives and to widen the representative base".

### United we stand

Charles is very encouraged by recent cooperative developments within the environmental movement. A FoE-Earth First! meeting at the annual EF! gathering decided to continue these cooperative meetings and to try and build on them. He frankly admitted that "one of the things that struck me most forcibly when I came back into FoE in 1993 was how distant central office had become from many of our local groups, and how difficult our relations seemed with many parts of the environmental movement, particularly the so called radical end. To me this is a disaster". Did he perceive any real animosity from parts of the radical sector? "Yes!, a lot of it. I think much was based on false impressions or bad communications. But the problems were also part and parcel of those new added pressures that were on the movement as a whole in terms of the post-Rio world."

Nonetheless, there was sufficient reported good feeling at the EF! gathering to hope that forthcoming meetings will build towards a massive environmental conference. Charles' strong hope is of a large, annual event, bringing together activists and members from the myriad of environmental groups, from EF! to the RSPB, networking and uniting campaigns which individuals and groups could focus on, and draw strength from as they prepare for another round of campaigning.

**"We must respect our differences and recognise that what unites us is far, far more important and prevalent than what divides us."**

"United we stand, divided we fall" maintains Charles. "We must understand as a movement, if we are to succeed in our primary objectives, that this is the dictum that we have to remember above all others. It doesn't mean we all have



Charles Secrett addressing the Green Party Conference at Hastings in 1994

to do the same things, conduct the same campaigns or work in the same way, but we must respect our differences and recognise that what unites us is far, far more important and prevalent than what divides us. We're all in this together, but there's room for us to be different; that's been a priority of mine since returning to FoE".

### A role for the Green Party

Of Green politics, Charles offered the following. "An absolutely critical part of what the movement needs to accomplish in order to realise our most deep rooted goals is a strong Green Party, acting as a political party, and being seen to be a credible parliamentary/local authority force. I think it's incumbent on the environmental movement at large to think about what it wants and what it's after in terms of what's most likely to allow such a Green Party to flourish in this country. Without such a Green Party, as a player from Town Halls to the European Parliament, the non party political parts of the environmental movement will not be able to succeed. We have to think in terms of what we can do to help such a Green Party flourish; I don't think that enough of us do at this stage".

Carefully, Charles refers to 'A Green Party' - does he mean the present Green Party or does he see room for another political initiative? "We've definitely got a Green Party in this country that can realise this potential if it makes certain changes to the way that it organises itself and the way that it portrays itself."

He seems a little ambivalent about the subject; whilst he thinks some internal structural changes would greatly improve the Green Party's stance with the outside world, he doesn't rule out the possibility of another Green Party rising "Phoenix like from the ashes". However, he states that "personally I feel that the existing Green Party has the ideas, the structure, and the people in it to be THE Green Party that makes the most of this opportunity... I think the time is right... one way or another Britain will get a Green Party that will deliver".

**"Without such a Green Party, as a player from Town Halls to the European Parliament, the environmental movement will not be able to succeed. We have to think in terms of what we can do to help such a Green Party flourish; I don't think that enough of us do at this stage"**

And finally a challenge to Green Party members, who must ask themselves: "What do we have to do, and how should we organise ourselves, to achieve seats nationally and internationally, and who do we work with to achieve it?"

Charles feels the opportunities are coming. If those in the Green Party can rise to the challenge, and if those outside can help in a non-political way, we may just make it.



# Animal Rights is not single issue politics

by Peter Barnett

All evil is intertwined. Animal rights activists are often criticised for devoting themselves to animals when children are dying of malnutrition or dissidents are being tortured and executed. Such critics fail to see the links. Societies showing the least regard for animals tend to be the most oppressive regimes towards people. And vice versa.

In effect, Animal rights campaigners are calling for a more decent and compassionate society. Heightening public awareness of animal suffering has a domino effect, drawing attention to the other evils which are all part of the same sickness. Factory farming, for example, is directly linked to bad food (BSE, salmonella, hormones like BST); pollution (silage seepage, global warming from belching cattle).

*The greatness of a nation and their moral progress can be judged by the way their animals are treated.*

Gandhi, 1869-1948

Or vivisection, which perpetuates a vicious circle of ill-health. Substances are declared safe to humans following animal tests which turn out to be highly toxic to our metabolism, and countless examples where basic medical research using animals has hindered and delayed the development of effective new treatments.

Animal abuse is usually linked to greed, corruption, depravity and brutality. Animal rights protesters are campaigning against all these and more. People are not intrinsically bad, the problem lies with those they keep electing, who have engineered a society where profit is paramount, and selfishness, greed and excessive consumption prevail. It's little wonder that the lack of moral values exhibited

by our political masters reflects on down throughout the population, and infects our every institution.

The animal rights movement poses no threat to the community - on the contrary, its purpose is to make life better. It does, however, threaten the individuals whose sole interest is personal profit and power afforded by their own legislation. Aided and abetted by the media, they use every means to demonise animal rights campaigners, and latterly have resorted to draconian legislation in the Criminal Justice Act, allowing widespread police brutality to enforce it.

Despite all this, there is hardly a town or village in the country without some form of animal welfare group operating. Sadly, they are still too few, and progress in bringing about positive change is minimal - in some areas things are getting worse. Vivisection is increasing again, ostrich farming is growing and wild animals are being wiped out by development, hunters, modern farming methods, pollution, and so on. There have been successes, for example the decline of the fur industry, and a few live exporters going out of business, but these people are like a hydra - cut off a head and two more grow back. Millions of animals continue to be sent on their journeys to Hell.

Animal rights, like civil liberties, social justice, environmental protection, and the host of other pressing issues are not going anywhere quickly because there is no political will to seriously address them. We are too few, and the Establishment has brainwashed the majority into thinking there is nothing they can do. It's all too big, too global, and nothing they can do would make a difference. This is nonsense of course. There are two principal actions people could take to turn things around. One is selective consumerism. Consumer boycotts can be tremendously powerful, if enough people take part. It's a matter of

convincing people that every person's action counts.

The other action is for people to take control over their own lives, by getting involved in the political process. Politics is about life - everyone should be involved. Instead, we leave it to a tiny minority, less than 1% of the population. Politics seems to attract the worst possible people - self-centred, ambitious types whose only 'talent' is verbal rhetoric. The solution lies in Green politics, where everyone is encouraged to participate in decision making, power is devolved to the lowest practical level, persons elected to positions of power are required to be totally accountable, and can be easily removed if seen to be abusing their position, and everything is totally open to public scrutiny. In this way Green politics empowers people, and good decisions are made. The existing 'grey' political system gives enormous power to a few, who, even if they start out with good intentions, are soon corrupted by it, resulting in what we have today.

*All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good people do nothing*

Edmund Burke

Politics does not have to be like this. Some people believe that by voting you are propping up the system. That's true only when you vote for the establishment parties. Boycotting elections perpetuates the system indefinitely. We can overturn the system and start creating a decent Green society by first taking control of it. If there's no local Green Party or candidates in your area, start one up. And put yourself forward as a candidate. It's incredibly easy and elections are the cheapest and most effective way of reaching a mass audience with your ideas.

It's no coincidence that Sweden, with the best animal welfare policies in the world, has one of the most successful Green Parties.

## Party political animals

by Peter Barnett

Where do the four main parties stand with respect to animals? And who can you trust?

### Conservatives:

The Tories are easy to assess, having been in control for so long. On vivisection - they passed the Animal (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 - better known as the Vivisection's Charter - which resulted in a worsening of the lot of laboratory animals. The Animal Procedures Committee is packed with pro-vivisectionists and big companies with vested interests in vivisection give generous donations to the Tory Party.

On bloodsports - the hunting lobby is well represented in the Tory Party, and Tory MPs have blocked every attempt to pass Bills to restrain the abuse. Many of them are keen hunters themselves. Ditto for factory farming. Farmer William Waldergrave was especially embarrassed when as Agricultural Minister it became known his farm produced calves for live exports. In a nutshell, the Tory position on animals is we don't give a damn, but they're great for making profits.

(continued on page 20)

## Bloodsports

### Hunt Saboteurs Association

Sabs go out into the country every week to save wildlife from being hunted to death from a demented sect of people who derive some kind of sick pleasure out of tormenting animals. The sabs face constant violence and abuse, and have borne the brunt of the Criminal Justice Act. They deserve your support. Go join them, or at least become a member of the HSA, and receive their excellent magazine HOWL.

£8/year. HSA, PO Box 1, Carlton, Nottingham NG4 2JY.

### National Anti-Hunt Campaign

Produce campaigning materials, newsletter, etc. to oppose hunting.

HARC, PO Box 66, Broxbourne, Herts EN10 6LU

## Plight of the Ostrich



Ostrich farming is growing. Adverts in the financial pages of the national press have been inviting investors to 'adopt' a breeding bird. Wild ostriches are being flown into Britain in appalling conditions, arriving in secret at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stanstead. They are incarcerated in cramped crates, forced to stand upright for the whole journey without relief. In one recent incident 21 birds died of suffocation.

Ostriches are wild animals whose natural habitat is hot and dry. They travel in small flocks covering large distances, often running at speeds of 43 mph. Bringing such creatures into this country, and cooping them up in a farm is unspeakably cruel. It is deeply regrettable that the RSPCA have produced what they describe as 'the world's first set of welfare standards for the humane farming of ostriches'.

There is no humane way to deprive these wild birds of their natural habitat and freedom, and by producing such guidelines they are encouraging this evil exploitation by get-rich quick merchants. The latest atrocity is a plan to race them.

There is much you can do. Boycott supermarkets selling ostrich meat. Lobby local councils to refuse licences to keep them. Put pressure on politicians, airlines, etc. to stamp out this evil trade.

For further information, contact

John Rowe, J & R Associates, PO Box 83, Bracknell, Berks RG12 7QH.

(John is spearheading this campaign on a shoestring budget. Please enclose a small donation if possible)

## Political Prisoners

Mike Roberts

A founder member of CALF (Campaign Against Live Exports), Mike Roberts has been charged with 'conspiracy to commit criminal damage'. His real crime is actually 'helping to form a very effective protest group to oppose the vile trade in live animals'. Despite no forensic evidence that he committed a crime, Mike has repeatedly been refused bail and could spend up to 18 months in prison until his case comes to trial.

This is a way the authorities can remove particularly troublesome activists from ongoing campaigns, aiming to render the remaining protesters less effective and intimidated. The same technique was used to keep ALF Press Officer Robin Webb off the streets. Show your support for Mike and send him an interesting letter.

Mike Roberts, GE 3743, HM Prison Lewes, 1 Brighton Rd, Lewes BN7 1EQ

### Keith Mann

The animal rights activist they decided to make an example of, by giving him a 14 year sentence for trumped up conspiracy charges. A court of appeal has reduced his sentence to 11 years. Big deal. He'd still be better off if he'd got drunk, run over a few pedestrians, and robbed an off-license on the way home. The campaign continues:

c/o ICA, PO Box 1135, Downs View Road, Hassocks, W. Sussex BN6 8AA.

## Animal Liberation Supporters Group

Provide financial and moral support to persons imprisoned in the defence of animals. ALFSG produce a magazine which is well produced and very compelling reading. Addresses of all current prisoners are included, so you may write to them. It's vital that the Green Movement support those who have lost their liberty through fighting for their beliefs. Next week it might be YOU. Send £2 for latest issue and further details to:

ALFSG, BCM 1160, London WC1N 3XX



# Live exports & factory farming

## Making the connections

by Dr. Tim O'Brien

The photograph on the cover of this magazine was taken by Philip Lymbery, Campaigns Director of Compassion In World Farming. This simple picture of a calf on a truck in Calais has appeared all over the world in newspapers, on TV, in magazines, on placards, banners, T-shirts and stickers. It has unexpectedly become an icon of the 1990s.

The appallingly cruel trade in live farm animals from the UK to Europe has galvanised protest countrywide over the last 18 months, on a scale which is unprecedented in a generation. The campaign has been waged at every conceivable level: pressure on vets to boycott the signing of export certificates, mass street protests, High Court actions, threatened boycotts of individual companies, a Private Member's Bill in Parliament (cynically 'talked out'), Early Day Motions, a judicial review of the Minister of Agriculture - no stone has been left unturned.

Now that live exports have provided the 'vehicle' for mass demonstrations and media attention, factory farming as a whole has fallen under the spotlight - a spotlight that for so long it has sought to avoid. Like broader environmental issues in the 1980s, factory farming has entered public consciousness in the 1990s, and the change will be irreversible. So now, the debate up and down the country, in homes, schools, pubs, workplaces and in the media, is opening out beyond live exports, to consider the many other cruel aspects of factory farming.

There is not the space here to detail the multitude of cruelties practised by the factory farming industry, there are just too many - hens imprisoned in battery cages; turkeys which can no longer mate naturally so instead are artificially inseminated; sows held captive in farrowing crates at the very time that their natural instincts prompt them to gather materials for a nest for their piglets; broiler chickens crippled by leg deformities during their brief six weeks of life, and so on.

With an increasing awareness of the cruelties of factory farming, people are starting to question why these cruelties are perpetrated. Connections are being made. Let's look briefly at the UK dairy industry:

One of the most immediate effects of the campaign against live exports has been that the UK dairy industry has come under intense

scrutiny. The question has at last been asked "Why are we producing so many calves, for export to Europe's veal crates?". And of course, the answer is that if you want milk from a cow, it first has to produce a calf. So now, the next question is increasingly cropping up in people's minds: "If we are producing all these 'unwanted' calves just to make milk, do we really need so much milk?".

The dominance of the dairy industry over our eating habits in this country is massive - just take a look around your supermarket at the shelves full of milk, yoghurts, cheese, confectionery. But the link has now been made in people's minds, between the export of 'surplus' calves to continental veal crates, and the preponderance of dairy products in our food. So people are starting to ask why, if we don't really need all of this dairy produce, do we continue to run our dairy cows into the ground to produce more and more milk (and 'unwanted' calves).

Now, just at the crucial moment, something else has come along to further undermine our carefully nurtured dependence on the UK dairy industry. The majority of dairy herds in the UK have been infected with BSE (so-called 'mad cow' disease). This situation apparently arose because the factory farming industry fed contaminated animal protein to UK dairy cows - creatures which are naturally herbivorous. Why? In order to make them more productive, as cheaply as possible.

Dr. Stephen Dealler, a medical microbiologist, has studied the growth and spread of BSE in the UK, and has concluded that there is evidence that the disease is now endemic, and mainly perpetuated by vertical and/or horizontal transmission (that is, cow to calf, and/or cow to cow). All of this has stemmed from the 'factory farming' mentality, which sees animals merely as components in a production line, rather than as living, sentient creatures.

It looks like the game is now up for factory farming. The live exports campaign has proved to be the key which has unlocked a torrent of previously unasked questions. Someone once said that the struggle of people against power is the struggle of memory against forgetfulness. After the last tragic, amazing, and revealing 18 months, the cruelties of factory farming in the UK will never fade into forgetfulness.

Dr. Tim O'Brien. Head of Research and Communications. Compassion In World Farming.

### Green Party Policy

To encourage ecological farming in small free-range units, prohibit live export and minimise the internal live transport of animals, abolish the piece rate in abattoirs, and otherwise improve market and slaughterhouse conditions; phase out all forms of intensive farming, including fish farms. Prohibit the import of any animal commodities not produced by methods acceptable to UK standards.

### News

The BSE nightmare runs and runs. We have just learned that the offal, brains, etc. removed from cattle at the abattoir is being fed to battery hens, whose litter is then being fed back to cows!

### What can I do?

Become a vegan, or at least cut down on dairy products to the barest minimum. Join the daily protests against live exports at Dover Harbour. Details Kent Action Against Live Exports 01304 374064

### Resources

Compassion in World Farming - leading the campaign against factory farming, animal patenting and live exports. Produces wide range of literature, education materials etc. Membership includes excellent quarterly magazine AgScene. CIWF, Charles House, Petersfield, Hants GU32 3EH 01730 260791

# Playing God?

## Genetic engineering

by David King

Invented in the mid 1970s, genetic engineering is the technology of isolating single genes from any organism, manipulating them, and re-inserting them into another organism. So far the most successful examples have been to transfer human genes like the erythropoietin gene into bacteria, which then make large amounts of erythropoietin as a drug to treat people with kidney failure. But it is also possible to transfer genes from any organism into practically any other, including plants and animals, with potentially much more harmful effects.

For many people, the very idea of manipulating genes in this way is simply unacceptable, an attempt to play God. Green thinkers have pointed out that the crude reductionist attitude to biology that is embodied in genetic engineering is a continuation to the arrogant scientific attitude towards nature, which has dominated society since the 16th century, and has brought us to the environmental crisis we face today.

An example of the ecological hazards is what may happen when genetically engineered (GE) plants are released into the environment. Such crops may become new super-weeds or genetically pollute wild plants by cross fertilising with them. Despite accumulating evidence that these fears are real, the multinational chemical corporations, the leaders in crop genetic engineering, continue to pressure for less outside scrutiny of what

they are doing. In the next year, the new engineered crops will be reaching us in the form of GE food, yet there is a bare minimum of safety evaluation and, in almost all cases, the food will not be labelled as GE, so it will be impossible to know what we are eating.

In the case of animals, we already know the harm genetic engineering can do. In the mid 1980s, scientists produced genetically engineered pigs containing human growth hormone genes, in an attempt to make pigs grow faster. Although they did not grow any bigger, the pigs suffered from a whole range of problems, including ulcers, arthritis, partial blindness and impotence. The attempt to make pigs grow faster illustrates how genetic engineering of both crops and animals is being used almost exclusively to further industrial, rather than sustainable agriculture. The other most famous product of genetic engineering, cow growth hormone (BST), is, likewise, intended to increase milk production in already overstressed cows, and causes a predictable range of welfare problems. Scientists are also creating mice with human genes as 'models' of human diseases. The most famous of these is the Harvard 'Oncomouse', genetically engineered to develop cancer. The oncomouse was also the first animal to be patented as a human 'invention': the industrial logic is that since it contains a new gene, it is now a human invention rather than a product of nature.

A few organisations have created vigorous campaigns on such issues, and there have been major victories, such as the vote in March 1995 by the European Parliament to reject patenting of plants and animals. Unfortunately, the wider Green movement is only beginning to take notice. If we are to combat the threats of genetic engineering, a vital first step is to become better informed.

David King is the editor of GenEthics News, a bimonthly newsletter on the ethical and environmental issues raised by genetic engineering. For a free sample see details right.

### Green Party Policy

AR410 Patents will not be granted on any animal and strict controls will be introduced to prevent genetic manipulation for profit or curiosity

### What can I do?

Write to Tesco's applauding their decision to boycott GE foods; and to Sainsburys, Safeway condemning their plans to stock them - and that you'll shop at Tesco's in future (though of course as Greens you'll actually avoid them all and shop at locally owned retailers, organic farms or grow your own.

Write to your MEP insisting Euro ban on BST must not be lifted.

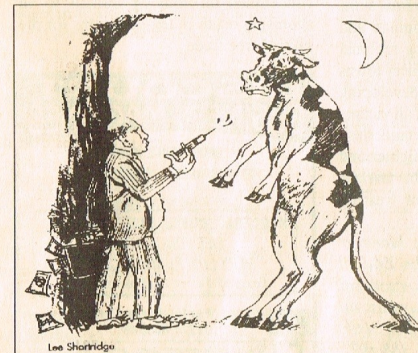
### Resources

#### GenEthics News

For free sample and subscription details write to GenEthics News, FREEPOST (LON 6013), PO Box 6313, London N16 0DY. Bimonthly newsletter on the ethical and environmental issues raised by genetic engineering.

#### The Splice of Life,

Bulletin of The Genetics Forum, 5-11 Worship Street, London EC2A 2BH - Annual sub (10 issues) £15 - provides roundup of latest developments worldwide, from research to regulation, with comment and suggestions for action.



Leo Shartridge



# Fur

## There's no excuse

by Toni Venelli

Every year millions of fur-bearing animals are trapped, drowned, and beaten to death in the wild and strangled, gassed or electrocuted on fur farms. The racks of death in fur shops show no sign of the torment these animals endured for the sake of human vanity.

Whilst the EU discuss the barbarities of the steel jaw leg-hold trap and attempt to set standards of 'humane trapping', millions of otters, racoons, beavers and foxes are suffering in traps around the world. Besides coping with the intense pain caused by the trap, caught animals will eventually will eventually endure thirst, hunger, temperature extremes, separation from family and sometimes predatory attacks.

Trap check laws vary around the world. In some places trappers are allowed a week to check on traps. Even this minimal regulation is difficult to enforce, and trapping violations are low on the list of priorities of most law enforcement agencies. Trappers kill animals using methods that are cheap, crude and painful, such as bludgeoning, standing on the animals chest, or pulling on the legs to "tear the heart strings". Millions of "non-target animals, including domestic animals, are crippled or killed "by mistake" in traps every year.

Many fur wearers try to ease their conscience by buying only "ranch raised" fur, but, before meeting their fate as part of someone's cloak of death, foxes, minks and beavers raised on fur farms endure months of suffering. Kept in crowded, filthy wire cages, the animals have no respite from temperature extremes, rampant disease and boredom. Fur ranches frustrate animals' basic needs and instincts; water-loving beavers exist on cement floors; foxes and minks have no place to burrow. In their frustration, the animals may cannibalise one another, or, if caged alone, pace endlessly. Killing methods on fur farms are no more humane. For small animals neck snapping or "popping" is easy and cheap. Other common methods include anal or



genital electrocution, injection of weed killer, or inhalation of hot carbon monoxide from an engine. Frequently these methods fail to kill, and animals are skinned alive.

Cruelty to animals is just one fur farm abuse; worldwide environmental damage is another. For example, a recent study of fur farms in Finland revealed that over 150 million pounds of animals droppings were produced each year. High in phosphorous, animals wastes pollute nearby waterways and contribute to oxygen depletion, killing fish. The ammonia emanating from the droppings pollute the air as well.

Every fur coat also represents astronomical energy consumption. It takes 312,700 more BTUs to manufacture a trapped fur coat than a fake fur, and 7,845,500 more BTUs to produce a ranched fur coat than a fake one. The environmental impact doesn't stop there. Tanneries, and the chemicals used to keep the animal skins from decaying, endanger human and planetary health by polluting regional waterways. Residents of tannery towns have an increased chance of developing cancer, and more than half of all victims of testicular cancer work in tanneries.

With so many warmer, lighter and less expensive fabrics on the market, there's simply no excuse for wearing fur.

Toni Venelli is Campaigns Manager for PETA - People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, an international organisation campaigning against all forms of animal abuse. PO Box 3169, London NW1 2JF Tel 0171 388 4922

## Green Party Policy

AR405 To prohibit the import, export or sale of all fur, whether caught wild or factory farmed, and to phase out and prohibit all fur farms in the UK. The import of other animal products such as ivory, reptile skins and whale oil, will be prohibited.

## EU bows to trappers

In 1991 the Council of the European Community took the laudable decision of banning the use of leg traps in member states. At the same time it voted to ban fur imports from countries which used the same barbaric methods of killing. Sadly, pressure from the main trapping nations (USA and Canada) caused the commissioners to postpone the ban on imported furs until January 1st, 1995.

As the deadline approached, pressure was applied again, but Environment Secretary John Gummer gave assurances stating: "... *The UK Government has made it absolutely clear that it's not prepared to have a postponement of this sort*" (Radio 4, 18th November). But despite this, the Commission voted to delay enactment of the legislation for another year. The Trade Commissioner Leon Britton was concerned that the regulation would cause disruption to trade and wanted to avoid a GATT challenge from Canada, Russia or the USA.

So once again our politicians have condemned millions of animals to an agonising death in leg-hold traps for the sake of free trade.

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# Vivisection

## Costing us the earth

by Dr. Tony Page

Look around you. Everywhere you will see (and smell!) pollution: from the stench of traffic fumes and the falling of acid rain; to the death of trees, lakes, rivers and soil from the deluge of chemicals with which they are all being assaulted. The hole in the ozone layer is the most dramatic example of how man's polluting chemicals are destroying our world environment.

Every year millions of chemicals are manufactured for industrial, agricultural, military, personal and household use. Pesticides alone account for 40,000 different formulations, whilst there are over 205,000 different drugs. These chemicals pollute our air, soil, water, food and bodies. They do so during manufacture, use and disposal.

How did all these dangerous industrial chemicals and petrochemical based "medicines" (which according to some doctors are doing more harm than good) get onto world markets as "safe"? The hidden cause of environmental pollution and public health problems is vivisection. Virtually all chemicals (detergents, pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, drugs, etc.) are tested out for "safety" on animals before being let loose upon our long suffering peoples and planet. And we are all paying for it - in both senses of the term.

There is no need here to dwell upon the immediate immorality of vivisection: deliberately damaging, distressing and slaughtering animals is unacceptable to any decent person. What is less often publicised is the fact that vivisection is nonsensical science. Indeed, it does not deserve the name of science at all.

Every species of animal (including the human animal) is a unique biological entity. No two species are exactly the same. Their genetic constellations are different, as are their potential reactions to substances. Every vet knows there are drugs deemed suitable for dogs, but not for cats, and drugs which may be indicated for horses, but not for hedgehogs. The same applies to the testing of any chemical: some animals may respond by developing cancer, others will not; some

animals will react similarly to human beings, others will react differently. But no one knows in advance if an animal reaction will be the same as the human one until that chemical is exposed to human beings themselves. This means that chemical producers can "get away with murder" by taking refuge behind animal-test data that seem to indicate no biological damage, but of course such animal data are irrelevant to the unique human social and biological condition.

Even the vivisectionists know that testing chemicals on animals to see if they will cause cancer in man is only guesswork. Speaking of the toxicologist (read "vivisectionist"), Dr. Frederick Coulston states: "*What he can't tell is whether the chemical is going to cause cancer, and this is the hang-up of the toxicologist today.*" Professor Pietro Croce, medical doctor and one-time vivisectionist, also points out the dangerously misleading nature of vivisection: "... *it is hard to find anything in biomedical research that is, and always was, more deceptive and misleading than vivisection.*"

Yet millions of pounds of public money is being spent on precisely this method of "safety" research. Vivisection conveys a false illusion of safety, but all it ensures is a continued demand for ever 'newer' and 'improved' poisons which end up polluting our planet, and ourselves. It is time to destroy the myth and medieval ritual of vivisection for the sake of pursuing real science, true progress and civilisation, and ensure a safe and poison-free environment for ourselves and future generations.

It is time to abolish vivisection before it destroys us and our shared world.

## References:

1. Dr. Frederick Coulston and Dr. Philippe Shubik, *Human Epidemiology and Animal Laboratory Correlations in Chemical Carcinogenesis*, (Ablex, New Jersey 1980), pp 179-280.
2. Professor Pietro Croce, *Vivisection or Science?: A Choice to Make* (CIVIS 1991), p 21.

Dr. Tony Page is founder of the British Anti-Vivisection Association (London), PO Box 4746, London SE11 4XF. Further information available on request.

## Boycott

## Procter & Gamble

The multinational corporate giant P&G is the world's largest manufacturer of household products, toiletries & cosmetics. Before being launched, these products are tested on animals for toxicity. The results are quite meaningless, because different species react to differently to any one substance. The reason they do it is for their own protection - to be able to produce 'safety' data showing that they assessed the product for toxicity in the event it has adverse effects on humans.

Boycotts can work. Several cosmetic companies have been persuaded to end animal testing through boycotts. Because of their sheer size, influencing P&G will require massive participation. But if they crack, all the others should follow.

UNCAGED are spearheading the campaign, and have already distributed over 150,000 leaflets and postcards. Contact them for petition forms (to be returned by 31st March) and other campaigning materials.

Meanwhile, avoid buying Bold, Ariel, Daz, Crest, Vidal Sassoon Wash & Go, Pantene Pro-V, Max Factor and Oil of Ulay (to name a but a few!).

Further details from UNCAGED (see ad on following page)

## News

Home Office figures showed animal experiments in Britain increased by nearly 15,000 in 1994 to a total of 2,842,361. The use of transgenic animals is the fastest growing area.



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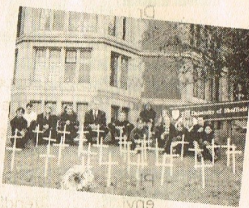
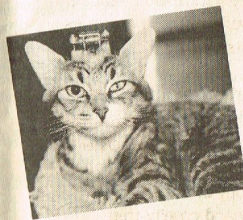
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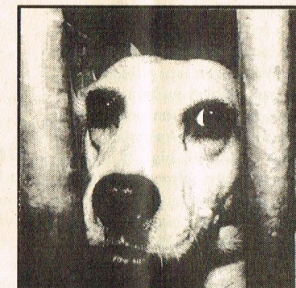
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# Can tourism be Green?

by Jenny Jones

## THE GREEN WORLD TRAVEL CODE

- ➔ **Be a considerate guest**  
Your resort is someone else's home.
- ➔ **Save resources**  
Don't waste water or electricity, avoid driving - maintain your best environmental practices as if you were at home.
- ➔ **Be kind to nature**  
Noise, bonfires, litter and careless rambling can disrupt or destroy the habitats.
- ➔ **Be adventurous!**  
Meet local people by walking, cycling, on public transport and in local hostels. You'll get to know the country & people much better.
- ➔ **Respect local traditions and customs**  
Check before photographing people. Try to speak in their language.
- ➔ **Support local skills and businesses**  
Only buy authentic goods made in the area, but avoid anything made from ivory, fur, skins, coral or other animal derived products.
- ➔ **Avoid all forms of animal abuse**  
Bullfighting, bear dancing, slum zoos, dolphinariums, 'photo-snap' monkeys, etc. Tourist money largely sustains these abuses.
- ➔ **Visit the local Greens**  
Make friends and develop new links. Give out Green World!

We all need holidays, a change in our normal routine to refresh and relax us, and often feel the need to get away from our familiar surroundings, that is, to become a tourist. Is it possible to be green and to travel? Can tourism be sustainable?

Large scale tourism is a relatively recent phenomenon. In the last 30 years travelling long distances has become faster, cheaper and easier. In the West, increased affluence and leisure time has enabled millions to take holidays regularly, even to the most remote areas of the world, such as Antarctica.

The tourism industry is big. If it was a country it would be the third richest in the world. And it's growing, such that within 5 years it will be the world's biggest industry. A staggering 500 million people travel abroad each year.

Individual cases bring home the reality. In 1963, 44 people rafted down the Grand Canyon's Colorado River. By 1972, when a ceiling of numbers was fixed, there were 16,432. Today there's an 8 year waiting list.

## Environmental impact

The environmental and cultural impact of this, the biggest mass migration in the history of the human race, is incalculable. Indigenous cultures are turned into Disney-style tourist attractions; hotel swimming pools are full while local villagers suffer water shortages; 'untidy' mangrove swamps, vital to the ecosystem, are cleared for leisure complexes, fossil fuels are burnt whilst the planet starts to sweat...

Hordes of visitors inflict serious damage, whether to paths across the Pennines, or to cities like Venice, whose 83,000 residents are outnumbered daily by 100,000 visitors. Such huge numbers end up destroying that which they came to enjoy. Mediterranean coastal areas have suffered decades of rampant development. As efforts are underway to repair the damage, tourists are

flocking to, cheaper, as yet unspoilt paradises in Thailand, South India and Turkey.

Indigenous cultures are very susceptible to new influences. In the remoter regions of Ethiopia, such as Tigray, they still welcome visitors as honoured guests. With great interest in European ways, some 'sophisticated' Ethiopians talk of their culture as backward and want it more westernised.

Traditional cultures are usually very green; limited resources are used carefully and nothing is wasted. Westernisation introduces greater reliance on fossil fuels and further escalates the exploitation of the world's finite resources.

## Displacement

Displacement is often the bitter cost of tourism, paid by local people. Their livelihood, traditions and culture count for nothing if their home lies in the path of a new beach complex, a golf course, or even a cultural and heritage site. Displacement is not simply a matter of persuasion, compulsory purchase or compensation. People are frequently forced to leave.

In Kenya, the ancestral lands of the Massai have become National Parks, where tourists are free to roam - but the Massai are banned. Many have migrated to urban slums, others have been reduced to begging or posing for photos.

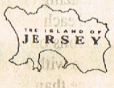
Pagan, in Burma, was home to 5,200 people who lived in villages among the ancient pagodas. They were given 2 weeks to pack up and resettle on a site of parched earth with little shelter, leaving Pagan and its pagodas as a lucrative tourist attraction.

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## The cost of tourism

Mass tourism is causing the loss of cultural identity in the host countries - we are creating a world of uniformity from a world of infinite variety.

There are additional costs to the world's self esteem. Sexual prostitution of women and children in poor countries is a horrifying tourist-driven market. It is estimated there are at least 1 million children in prostitution in Asia alone.

Overall, it seems barely possible to be a conscientious green and a tourist. The Seychelles promotes sustainable tourism with a strict code which includes controlling the visual impact of hotels, limiting access to islands with fragile ecosystems, prohibiting spearguns and banning vehicles from many islands. As a result it is an expensive place to visit.

But perhaps this is not a bad thing. Clearly, the huge growth in tourism is unsustainable and the true costs are not being paid. The pollution caused by aircraft alone is horrendous, but has somehow avoided the attention attracted by the motor industry. If people were encouraged to holiday closer to home, they might learn to appreciate their local environment more, and take better care of it. A long distance vacation would be a less frequent, very special occasion.

## Newbury

Five minutes from the busy town centre of Newbury is a picturesque walk along the canal. After about 15 minutes, turn right into the unspoilt woodland and you will shortly encounter the river Kennet, its banks overhung with mature trees and lush vegetation, the only sound being of bubbling water passing over the weir. This is one of several idyllic spots lying directly in the path of the 9 mile long Bypass.

How many residents of Newbury have been there? If more of them realised what they are about to lose, local opposition to the Bypass would be insurmountable. Will they instead allow the road to be built, and eventually use it to drive to Europe, to spend a holiday somewhere in countryside not unlike what is being trashed on their doorstep.

## Your next vacation

It's amazing the number of people who travel abroad each year, blissfully unaware of local attractions on their doorstep. Tourists leave London with a better knowledge of the city's heritage than those who live and work there.

Explore your immediate environment and see what it has got to offer before venturing further afield. A large proportion of holiday expenditure goes on travelling costs. Think what fun you might have spending all that extra cash on a local holiday. It also benefits the local economy, helps preserve the local environment, thus enhancing the quality of life for yourselves and the community.

## Green holidays

If you must get away from the familiar surroundings of home, there is a spectacular variety of Green holidays to choose from. A few can be seen in the classified ads on page 2, from 'finding yourself' in Cornwall to whale watching in the Azores. Or there are practical, educational Green holidays run by organisations like the Centre for Alternative Technology and BTCV, where you can learn skills like coppicing, organic gardening, vegan cookery, blacksmithing... the choice is endless. And then of course, the highlights of everyone's year - the Spring and Autumn Green Party Conferences.

Before booking anything, check your destination carefully. Ask awkward questions to determine whether tourism there is:

- ➔ **Fair and just** - yielding benefits that are fairly distributed to all;
  - ➔ **Participatory** - that local people are fully involved in the management and development;
  - ➔ **Sustainable** - that the long term social and environmental well-being of the area is put before short term gain.
- Stay abreast of current consumer boycotts. You are asked, for example, to avoid:
- France** - until nuclear testing ceases
  - Philippines** - for exporting wild primates for vivisection
  - Norway & Japan** - whaling

Finally, if you must travel, lessen your impact by remembering the Reverend Francis Kilvert's comment back in 1870:

*'Of all noxious animals, the most noxious is a tourist, and of all tourists, the most vulgar, ill-bred, offensive and loathsome is the British tourist.'*

Jenny Jones is Chair of the Executive Committee of the Green Party. She is an environmental archaeologist, specialising in plant remains from the Middle Eastern Neolithic. Jenny has worked and travelled in Jordan, Syria, Israel, Turkey, Crete, Ethiopia, Cyprus, Egypt and Abu Dhabi. She lived for many years in Seychelles & Lesotho.

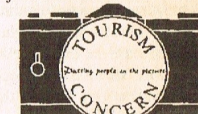
## Tourism & sexual abuse of children

The recent rapid growth of tourism has coincided in several countries with the emergence or expansion of the child sex industry. British citizens are amongst those who are sexually abusing children abroad in the belief that they will not be prosecuted or exposed.

Almost every tourist-sending country have changed their laws to enable the prosecution at home of citizens who abuse children abroad. Shamefully, the UK Government stands alone in rejecting such legislation. The Coalition on Child Prostitution and Tourism is currently running a campaign to persuade the Government to change its despicable position. Please support them. Further details, campaign postcards, etc. from: Coalition on Child Prostitution & Tourism c/o Anti-Slavery Int., Unit 4, Stableyard, Broomgrove Road, London

## Resources

**TOURISM CONCERN**, Southlands College, Wimbledon Parkside, London SW19 5NN 0181 944 0464. The principal charity promoting Green Tourism. Campaigns, networking - exchanging information and supporting worthwhile projects; provides literature, speakers, teaching resources, information centre. Quarterly magazine *In Focus*, free to members.



**GREEN GLOBE**, 20 Grosvenor Place, London SW1X 7TT 0171 930 8333. An environmental management & awareness programme for the Travel & Tourism Industry. Provides members with information, training, education, and generally promotes best environmental practices across the sector.



## Party animal politics

(continued from page 10)

### Labour

Labour are supporters of vivisection, but cynically try to make political capital out of laboratory animals with populist policies to phase out tobacco, alcohol and weapons testing on animals. These account for a tiny percentage of animal experiments. On bloodsports there is confusion and hypocrisy. They state an 'intention' to abolish hare coursing, fox hunting and all forms of hunting with dogs, but then pledge a free vote on hunting live quarry with hounds. Of greater concern is the fact that a number of senior Labour politicians actively support bloodsports, and set up an organisation to promote them.

### Liberal Democrats

On vivisection they have almost identical policy to Labour, i.e. they view some animal experiments as useful, but would end testing on tobacco, cosmetics, weapons and household goods. On bloodsports the hypocrisy even outstrips that of Labour. In 1989 their Conference approved a policy which specifically stated they would abolish hunting with hounds. But in letters to members of the League Against Cruel Sports, Paddy Ashdown contradicted this claiming they had no formal policy on hunting and that it was a moral issue which MPs should come to their own decision about. For an indication of how much Liberal Democrat MPs take heed of policy passed by Conference, only one voted for Kevin McNamara's Wild Mammals (Protection) Bill and three voted against. Last year another pro-blood sports organisation was set up, this time supported by Davis Steel. Liberal Democrat green rhetoric is just that - empty words to attract votes - but don't trust them when it comes to the crunch. Just think *Newbury Bypass!*

### The Green Party

The Greens attitude towards animals is encapsulated in a sentence from the Animal Rights section of their Manifesto for a Sustainable Society: "The prevailing assumption that animals can be used for any purpose that benefits humankind is not acceptable in a Green society". The Green Party is committed to total abolition of vivisection, bloodsports, factory farming and all other forms of abuse and exploitation.

As with most other issues, the gap between the Green Party and the establishment parties on animals is vast. Of great significance is the fact the Greens refer to Animal Rights rather than Animal Welfare as the others do. This is because the Greens believe that animals have a degree of moral relevance and afford them the respect they deserve. In contrast, the prevailing establishment viewpoint is that animals are merely a another resource to be exploited at will. It should be recognised that despite vigorous battles between the main parties to control the government, they are all essentially the same, locked into an antiquated way of thinking. They seem incapable of breaking out into the real world and cannot see how their obsession with market forces, growth and profits is not meeting peoples' needs, but destroying the future for everyone.

Few recognise the fundamental importance of the way we treat animals. Cruelty is cruelty and incompatible with a decent society. Disregard for the rights and well-being of animals is a major cause of pollution, ill-health, violence, greed and selfishness. Respect and care for animals is a prerequisite to a fair and sustainable society.



# Reviews

## HOW TO DEFEND YOURSELF IN COURT

Michael Randle

Tell a lawyer you're planning to defend yourself in court and they'll say you have a fool for a client. But they would say that, wouldn't they? By conducting your own defence, you have a dedicated enthusiast for an advocate, but do invest in this little book first, to ensure you are well prepared and adequately informed. It explains, in layman language, the workings of the legal system and courtroom procedures.

The main reason for defending yourself might be the inability to pay for professional advocates - all too common nowadays with legal aid getting more difficult to secure, and not available at all in many areas, such as libel. The McLibel two's legal fees would have run to well over a £1m by now.

But there is a strong case for defending yourself in trials arising out of nonviolent direct action or any

conscientious decision to defy the law. If, as is often the case, the facts are not in dispute, or not central to the defence, it's easier to conduct, and as your own advocate, you'll have greater latitude in introducing moral and political arguments on which the defence ultimately rests. It also provides enables you to use the trial as a platform to address a wider public, if that is your wish.

If you are lucky, you might convince a jury of the merits of your arguments and win the case even when the judge has essentially directed the jury to convict, as happened in the Pottle/Randle trial. The final section of the book is devoted to running such political defences, with examples used by defendants in cases arising out of NVD actions.

The book will also be very useful to those advising defendants, or wanting an insight into the legal system.

ISBN 0 900137 41 p/b  
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**Mallen Baker**, Green Liberal Democrats (GLD), Liberal Democrat Party

**Tony Gray**, Socialist Environment and Resources Assoc (SERA), Labour Party

**Allan Pond**, Campaign for Real Ecology (CARE), Green Party

**Nick Wood-Dow**, Tory Green Initiative (TGI), Conservative Party

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# Uniting the Green Movement

## WHAT ON EARTH IS TO BE DONE?

A Red Green Dialogue  
Red Green Study Group

Perhaps the most startling thing about this essay is the extent to which the word "socialism" may be freely deleted. In terms of its policy outline, there is little any Green could object to in this book. But then, you could substitute "radical Liberalism" - meaning the continuing Liberal Party not the Liberal Democrats - just as easily as you could substitute "green" for "socialism."

This encapsulates the problem of any dialogue between different political groups, that labels rather than policy differences are what is significant. The members of the Red-Green Study Group - including our own esteemed John Morrissey - have an attachment to the label "socialism", an aversion to an ill-defined "capitalism" and a delusion that a Green Socialist Party could prosper as something other than a sect amongst sects.

The largest Green Party in the world, the German Green Party, is clearly a political coalition encompassing the policies and philosophies represented in Britain by groups like the Green Party, the Democratic Left, the Campaign for Political Ecology, the Liberal Party, the Socialist Environment and Resources Association and the active members of Friends of the Earth and Greenpeace. This is what we need here, not new doubtful reasons to split the Green Movement still further.

At the present political juncture, three conservative, right of centre parties dominate British politics. The Green Party can easily accommodate the full range of centre-left options for political change in terms of its existing and likely policies. If it

does not, before the Blair regime alienates those who want radical change, then it may not prosper as an alternative for a very long time. We don't all need to be socialists, we do all need to be Green, however we might like to qualify our "greenness."

The Red Green Study Group is mainly academics, so I am not at all surprised at their conclusion that a Green Socialist Party is needed. Academics habitually divide and categorise. There are better answers, one being the current national Green Party strategy of coalition-building to unite the Green movement.

STEVE DAWE  
£3.50

Red Green Study Group,  
2, Hamilton Road,  
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## TOWARDS UNITY AMONG ENVIRONMENTALISTS

Bryan G. Norton

Despite the growing evidence all around them, the majority of people remain unaware or unconvinced that there is an environmental crisis of global proportions which threatens their very survival, and even more so of their offspring. Others believe or hope the problems are being addressed adequately and that technology and human ingenuity will see us through. And there are those who are perfectly aware of the situation, but don't really care, provided their short stay on the planet is a good one. Tragically, too many of these people occupy the key positions in politics, finance and industry, and in their selfish pursuit of ever more power and wealth, are pushing us closer and closer to the brink.

And then there is the Green movement, which in its widest definition, encompasses millions of people in this country alone, most of whom are aware of the

situation. The problem is that they have been fighting their causes in a huge and diverse variety of organisations, winning a few battles here and there, but failing to stem the tide of ecological destruction, symptoms of which include war, social breakdown, disease, poverty and so on. Numerically they far outnumber the opposition, so why have they failed to unite together and overwhelm the forces of destruction?

This book provides some valuable insights to the question. It focuses on the distinction between objectives and values, and argues that environmentalists work towards common objectives, but do not share moral principles. Norton believes this lack of unity causes unnecessary conflict within the movement and impedes their overall effectiveness. The various groups see events differently and describe them in such diverse vocabularies resulting in a lack of common theoretical principles.

For example, preservationists want to save a forest because they believe in the sanctity of wilderness - and that all the living things there have an intrinsic right to be left in peace in their rightful place as nature intended. Conservationists, on the other hand, want to save the forest because it is a valuable resource - that its destruction will be detrimental to local people let alone the flora and fauna. While the two groups bicker about moral values, instead of uniting to save the forest, the loggers move in... Norton's goal is to create a common language for discussing the issues as a vital first step towards unified theory of environmental management.

Although the book concentrates on America, and on 'environmentalists' rather than the wider Green movement (in which we count the peace movement, civil liberties,

constitutional and social reformers, animal and human rights, feminists and so on), in many ways the arguments apply even more to the whole Green movement, where the diversity of thought and values is even wider. We do all share common objectives, but have allowed ourselves to be divided if not altogether conquered.

In the Green political sphere, the conflict between the more anthropocentric (people-centred) social Greens, and the ecocentric deep Greens is a classic example of Norton's disunity theory. Both groups have incredibly similar objectives - aimed at creating a fair and sustainable society - but come from very different political and social backgrounds, and deeply distrust one another. This results in an inability to recognise their common goals. The efforts of both camps to promote themselves, rubbish the other, and establish 'differences' between them is astonishing. They can spend more time on this than fighting the real enemy.

But fortunately things are changing and the Green movement is increasingly working together. The are dozens of coalitions of groups working on common campaigns now, and its growing all the time. The Green Party, covering every interest across the spectrum, is the natural focal point, and has a crucial role to play. It is an enormous responsibility, and the ideas in this book could help it to prevent the damaging divisions which arose the last time it tasted success. The onus is on factions like The Way Ahead and CARE to recognise that their differences are insignificant compared to the common goal. They should read this book, and then form a coalition!

PETER BARNETT

ISBN 0 19509397 6 p/b  
304 pp £9.99  
Oxford Univ. Press





by Niki Kortvellyessy

It is sobering to realise that Green politics is today one of the more established entities in the spectrum of European political families.

There are newer, and more radical strands of thinking arising from the post-Cold war collapse of old ideologies: the chauvinist nationalists, (e.g. *UK Independence Party*, *Vlaams Blok*), the neo-fascists, (*Front Nationale*, Austria's *Freedom Party*), and even the new utopians, (*Natural Law Party*, now operating throughout Europe). Inevitably, given that the dominant topic of debate in all countries is European unification, all varieties of political thought, old or new, are making links internationally with related groups and parties, learning, influencing and growing stronger by sheer dint of being established in more and more countries.

The Greens are a European concept - our values are a unique mixture of the duty of the state to protect the individual, and the duty of the individual to exercise personal responsibility. It is not surprising that Green thinking has spread fastest and furthest in Europe, but what is truly astonishing is that there is no state in continental Europe today without a party political expression of Green thinking. Apart from the Socialist/Social Democrat family there is no other strand of thought that is so widely represented.

This wide geographical spread is of course no more a guarantee of unanimity than it is a guarantee of power. There are big differences in Green approaches to creating a sustainable future - some are left, some are right, all claim to be

## There are Green Parties in 75 countries across 6 continents fighting for a common goal: a fair and sustainable society

### Part I: Europe

ahead! Some are coy about their position on the party spectrum, (e.g. the Germans, sometimes allied to the Social Democrats, sometimes cuddling up to the Christian Democrats) others flaunt it (the Portuguese Greens have been in alliance with the Communist party for years). Some of these differing approaches are imposed on a party's political culture by local practice or tradition, others are due to the political space available.

But the main thing Greens do have in common are Green ideas and goals. We find we share those even when our backgrounds and experiences vary enormously - as evidenced by the growth of Green politics in eastern Europe.

#### Eastern Europe

The spread of Green ideas in eastern Europe was fast but has lapsed, although its course was the reverse of the western model: the Green parties achieved Parliamentary representation first, before the grass roots had had time to grow. But from the outset they had the voters' confidence as, unlike their western counterparts, eastern Green MPs tended to be scientists, professionals with first-hand knowledge of the environmental crisis.

But in the east as in the west, disillusionment with politics is eroding popular confidence in all parties, including the Greens, resulting in a loss of Parliamentary representation, and a return to local or single issue activism. The Greens' image is no more glamorous and utopian - now they're just the people who know how to deal with the filth and disease of aging industry and exhausted agriculture.

In Poland there's actually no Green Party as such, but a Green fraction in the main opposition party *Freedom Union*, with 9 MPs. In the Czech Republic 5 Green Party MPs were elected in 1992. The Slovak Greens had 5 MPs in the last Parliament, but managed only two in the most recent election through a very complicated coalition. The Hungarian Greens have had a particularly hard time of it, what with infiltrators, internal coups etc, but are now one of the best-organised and most democratically rooted parties, at the third attempt. Romania is barely a democracy, the Green representation in Parliament (20 MPs between 2 Green parties) is to be only cautiously welcomed.

In Bulgaria the Greens are well established, but in the large-scale return of the voters to the Communist party in the 1994 election they lost all 14 seats, (and *Ecoglasnost* lost all 17 seats,) although locally they remain a force. The Albanian Greens are struggling - democracy is not well developed, the people being preoccupied with just surviving. In ex-Yugoslavia we know of Green groups, and must build links with them as soon as peace is established.

In Slovenia where the war ravaged least, the Greens were elected early and have the distinction of having been the first Green party in government with five portfolios. They lost three of them at the second election, but still hold Education and Technology Ministries, although the party itself has undergone convulsions around its MPs. Greece's last Green Party with a single woman MP collapsed under the weight of the Macedonia crisis which split the party. A new one was recently formed, based in Crete.

The Ukraine has a large Green movement as you would expect from a country with such a monumental pollution

burden, but its Green Party is working against overwhelming odds: a national infrastructure that's falling apart, political debate preoccupied with questions of national identity, and to boot a voting system that's unfair to small parties. There are small struggling Green Parties in Moldova and Byelorussia but they have not indicated an interest in networking abroad. The Greens of the Baltics seem to be trying again, after initial successes followed by total eclipse. Indeed the present Estonian President was an early member of the Green Party.

In Russia the two main centres of political activity are St. Petersburg and Moscow, and the two Green Parties are very different in character. St. Petersburg Greens were formed early and had 22 councillors elected to the City Council in 1991, which was then abolished by President Yeltsin when he shot up his own Parliament. The Green Party has not gone away though, in September they made Russian history by getting a land planning law enforced by the courts against a development company - the first time ever. Moscow Greens have a more direct action strategy, but both were very well organised in the run-up to the general election. To qualify for national party status, the law requires members to collect 200,000 signatures, spread over the 11 time-zones of the Russian Federation. The national party was only formed in 1992, yet they collected 120,000 signatures in two months, illustrating the rate of growth in both popular support and membership.

Georgia used to have the largest directly elected Green Parliamentary group anywhere, but a civil war and a collapsed economy have left most voters disillusioned with politics. In the November 95 elections the Greens entered a coalition with Eduard Shevardnadze's Citizens' Union and kept 5 MPs and gained the role of Speaker of the House. Azerbaijan has problems remaining (or even becoming?) a democracy, but its small Green Party has created joint campaigns with neighbouring Armenia's Greens even during the thick of their states vicious war. Armenia's 9 Green MPs tend to limit their activities to purely

environmental issues, but as their government had just reopened an aging nuclear power station built by the Soviets right on top of a seismic fault line, they have quite enough to do there! The Turkish Green Party is banned along with other opposition groups, but we do hear from time to time that there are people keeping Green thinking alive.

#### Western Europe

Over in the west of Europe the Irish *Comhaontas Glas* are an established part of the political scene, with two larger-than-life MEPs, and one TD, active on all issues and playing full role in political life, much to the dismay of the bigger parties. The French *Les Verts* fell apart after losing all their Euro-seats in 1994, but now beginning to pull together again. Sadly Spain is experiencing difficulties, due to serious differences between regional parties. The Portuguese party is small but regularly re-elected as part of a Red/Green coalition. There's talk of Andorra forming a Green Party - the tiny country has only been an independent state since 1993!

Belgium has 2 well-established regional Green parties reflecting the Parliamentary structure, and their MPs cooperate well at Federal Parliament level. They pioneered the introduction of ecotaxes and it is fair to say that every government in Europe is watching the progress of their experiment! The Dutch Green Left has 5 MPs but is under pressure from the newer *D66* party. Luxembourg has a good Green presence, though dubious party discipline as their MEP left the Green Group and joined another without telling his party!

The German Greens are going from strength to strength, locally, regionally and nationally - they alone of Green Parties regularly make the headlines abroad. They are well worth watching as they struggle with the contradictions of maintaining Green principles and gaining power. Next door in Austria the party is also called *Die Grunen* and is also well organised and thoroughly rooted in the community. It suffered in the December 95 elections as the voters

#### Greens in the European Parliament

The Green Group in the EP have shown how much can be achieved by a small but determined body. They have led the way on numerous issues, from animal patenting to nuclear testing, and remain a highly influential force, promoting Green perspectives on every issue. A shining example of the incredible potential of Green politics.

supported the Social Democrats in order to keep out the far right. The Swiss have the distinction of having had the first Green MPs in Europe, but that didn't save them from losing some seats in the last general election. Italy's Greens are a federation of regional parties with strong representation in regional parliaments and several mayors (including Rome and Naples) but are expected to have a hard time if the next government does decide to opt for full first-past-the-post voting system.

The Greens of Scandinavia are an interesting array: Norway has a small struggling and very pure Green party, as has Denmark. In Sweden the hugely successful *Miljöpartiet* has shown that idealism and professionalism do mix. The Finns, more pragmatic and moderate are also extremely successful at both local and national level. Invited into the Government they have provided Europe with its first Green Party Environment Minister.

Finally, of course, there are the Green Parties of England & Wales, Northern Ireland, Scotland and the Channel Islands, the latter having 3 MPs in Jersey.

Inspired by the success of Green politics in Europe, environmentalists elsewhere began to see the need to organise politically. The spread of the environmental crisis, and the improvement in computation of its scale, causes and latterly its solutions has now produced the global phenomenon of the Green politician.

#### Next issue

Part 2: The rest of the world  
The Green Parties of Africa,  
the Americas and Australasia.

Niki Kortvellyessy was International Co-ordinator of the Green Party 1992-1994 and is currently spokesperson for the European Federation of Green Parties.



## Mujer en Madrid

Getting a friendly Green welcome  
by Felicity Mawson

Going to Madrid on the spur of the moment last November, with just a couple of phone numbers of local Greens may seem a bit wild. What prompted me?

A notice in Planetary Connections for the '7th Women Entrepreneur's Trade Fair', by Women's World Banking had caught my attention. Who are WWB? What do they do? The Fair might yield some useful connections - but failing that, it was a good excuse to meet some Spanish Greens and see Madrid.

Before leaving I faxed the WWB for information about the exhibition and accommodation. Impressively, the President of the WWB replied, and recommended that I attend the 'Ecofeminism y Mujer en la Sociedad Actual' lecture - featuring the Green's General Secretary, Ana Segura as one of the speakers. I set off with a bag of green literature, including Green World of course.

I spent the first night at an expensive hotel opposite the exhibition complex but then was thankfully rescued by local Greens. The WWB exhibition was like a smaller version of the Global Partnership event, but with more politically correct and institutional representation. WWB are an 18 year old banking organisation with branches in 60 countries (not the UK), specialising in loans to small businesses run by women. There were stands displaying crafts from different parts of Spain. Lectures (with translation earphones) ran to mid evening each day in four theatres - all for free!

The exhibition had a high profile: TV reporters and guest speakers from universities, professional institutions and government departments, but the ecofeminism lecture was the only 'green' one apart from one on recycled paper.

### Greens in Madrid

Away from the fair, my new friends (who rescued me and were so hospitable) were infinitely patient with my questions and eager to hear about the UK Greens. Many of their problems are the same as ours - getting media coverage, a lack of money and the ignorance and indifference

of the public regarding, for example, animal rights. They have links with left wing parties in some regions.

They have representation at regional and local level in the Balearics (Ibiza), but like us, no MPs or MEPs. They have links with the Portuguese Greens, working on joint ideas regarding rivers the 2 countries share. I was told of one issue where Greens and ETA were in agreement (opposing a road through the equivalent of a SSSI). Though other parties were against it they voted FOR simply because ETA were against it!

### Neo Nazis and squirrels

What impressions of a few days in Madrid - in parts a beautiful city of some 4 million people, growing problems of pollution, unemployment and homelessness (sounds familiar). La Farola (their equivalent of The Big Issue) on sale, bottle banks, noise, and fast moving traffic along wide boulevards. Two pleasant surprises: the squirrels in Retiro Park (reddish black and very friendly) and the Prado Museum - absolutely brilliant and free at weekends.

Not pleasant, almost frightening was a gathering of neo Nazis commemorating the 20th anniversary of Franco's death. We looked down from a balcony as cars drove up and down in a smart area of the city, horns baring, flags waving, with well dressed people wearing arm bands proudly going to the gathering, middle aged women giving the Nazi salute... no one was saying anything or objecting, police vans waiting respectfully to one side. I was told that at a meeting of anti-Nazis on the same day it was guaranteed that the police would be wading in.

Hopefully it is a sign of political maturity that the Spanish can tolerate a range of views in a (fairly?) democratic manner. The papers outlined where various marches and rallies would be held - you take yer flag and take yer choice on a sunny afternoon

Felicity Mawson, Witham & Braintree Green Party. Parliamentary candidate '92. Green World Distribution Manager

## Stuff the National Lottery! Play the White Owl Draw

The White Owl Monthly Draw awards a top prize of up to £100 and 2 runners up prizes of around £10 to £25.

(amount depends on the number of players)  
Entry fee is just £2. Half the stake money makes up the prizes, all the rest goes to a good cause: **The Green Party!** Help raise vital funds and have a very good chance of winning cash into the bargain.

We urge *Local Parties to play*. Currently most players are individuals. Come on LP's, the cost of each draw is equal to just one unwaged capitation!

Complete the form below and send to:  
**Maggie Jones, White Owl Draw, 18 Burn  
Close, Adlestone, Surrey KT15 2PJ**  
Send this coupon to Maggie, not your bank.

I would like a flutter with 'The White Owl'  
Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post code \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ I enclose a cheque for £24 to **The Green Party** (12 month's entrance fees)  
☐ I require a receipt  
☐ I enclose a completed bankers' order.

To: Bank \_\_\_\_\_  
Sort Code        
Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post code \_\_\_\_\_

Please pay 'The Green Party' £2.00 every month starting on receipt of this order and debit my/our account A/C

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Pay to the Green Party A/C 50115738,  
Cooperative Bank Plc, 34 Kingsway,  
Swansea SA1 5LG (Sort Code 08-90-85)



Felicity Mawson

## Understanding Basic Income

As the oppressive new Job Seekers Allowance increases the divide between rich and poor, the need for a fair and sustainable tax and benefits system is more important than ever  
by Clive Lord

The idea is simple: an automatic payment to each man, woman and child sufficient to cover the basic needs of food, fuel, clothing and accommodation, irrespective of any other wealth or income, and regardless of whether you have done - or been able to find - any work or not. It will replace all Social Security benefits including housing benefit, tax allowances, and also disability premiums and student grants, though there will be supplements for these, and a higher rate for old people.

Simple as it sounds, Basic Income (BI) is far from obvious, especially in a Green context. Opponents point out the apparent madness of a "handout" to the "workshy" just when the means to provide it are to be restricted in the interests of sustainability. So why do so many approach me at Conference saying "I joined the Green Party because I read about the Basic Income"?

### The present system - grindingly unfair

The first thing to get straight is the idiocy, or more accurately the sheer grinding unfairness of the present system. If you come off Income Support as you start a job, the effect so far as you are concerned, is equivalent to being taxed at 100% on the first chunk of your earnings. If you are on 'targeted' benefits such as Family Credit or Housing Benefit, your marginal 'tax' rate is 70% or 65% - the rate at which they are withdrawn. If you lose both at the same time, as many do, you only keep 8p of every pound you earn - you might as well be taxed at 92%. So when anyone asks how BI is to be paid for, who do you think is paying now?

Basic Income is crucial to Green politics because no one can be expected to listen to us unless we can give an absolute guarantee of security. If you are faced with hardship for yourself and your family, which you can avoid by doing something which will damage the environment, what will you do?

### Security with a work incentive

Well yes, you might say, but the answer must combine that guarantee of security with a work incentive. Which is exactly what BI does. Under the present system if you find work you are little or no better off. With BI, you are topping up your income.

One reason why BI has not caught on is because both sides of the old political battle lines think it is a plot by the others. Labour supporters spot that it may allow some wages to fall. This is partially true, indeed one of the hoped-for effects is to make feasible all kinds of environmentally necessary jobs which can only be low paid. A study done in Holland supports the view that it will have the opposite effect in unpleasant jobs. But the main thing is that it can't cause *total* income to fall. In fact it does what they want the Minimum Wage to do, but more effectively, and without the environmentally damaging consequences which that policy is likely to entail. On the other hand, to Tories, BI looks wildly redistributive. Actually it is the minimum redistributive necessary to allow a sustainable society to be feasible.

### Social justice and reward for personal effort and enterprise

Oddly enough, these apparent obstacles to BI contain the clue to its strength, and eventual success. BI combines an essential element of left-wing thinking - social justice - with an equally essential element from the right - reward for personal effort and enterprise. Only when people from both sides come to recognise the value of this combination in a Green setting will the Green Party begin to go places.

For a fuller explanation the booklet *A Guide to the Green Party's Basic Income Scheme* is 50p from Green Trade. Better still, invite me to talk to your local group.

Clive Lord is a founder member of the Green Party, Convener of the Basic Income Costings Group, and may be contacted at Batley & Spennings Green Party, 44 Upper Batley Low Lane, Batley, W Yorks

### Advantages of BI

**Simplicity:** easy to understand  
**Income security:** a platform on which to build without harassment  
**Autonomy:** freedom to earn or not to earn, to study or train, without forfeiting benefits  
**Stronger families:** guaranteed pensions; incomes for carers  
**Stronger economy:** abolition of National Insurance contributions and improved work incentives  
**A less divided society:** everybody subject to the same ground rules.

"I believe that Britain should now move towards an entirely new structure of income security, which would give every citizen an unconditional Basic or Citizen's Income related only to age and received irrespective of work or marital status." Paddy Ashdown '92

### Paying for BI

Central and local government operate a host of systems aimed to alleviate poverty, which fall far short of the mark, and are absurdly complicated to understand and administer. The expenditure:

**Cash benefits** (eg child & Nat. Insurance benefits, Income Support)

**Tax allowances and reliefs** (eg personal allowances, pension and mortgage tax reliefs)

**Administration costs** (£4 b/year)

BI would gradually replace the first two, and slash the administration budget. It would cut a swathe through bureaucracy and make fraud more difficult. Freeing claimants to train or study would boost skills and education.

Improving work incentives at the bottom will lead to greater prosperity overall - less unemployment, more tax payers, less crime, waste and degradation. In that way, BI would pay for itself.

We would all benefit both socially and economically.

This column was made up from information supplied by: Citizens Income Study Centre 0171 955 7453



## Local elections

### Direct action that hits the spot

In an increasingly alienated society, where crime, sickness, poverty, injustice, racism, pollution, stress and violence persist, politicians are looked on with contempt. Not only have they failed us so spectacularly, but have been exposed as self-serving, sleazy, arrogant, corrupt, incompetent and uncaring. No wonder so many people don't bother to vote anymore.

But boycotting elections is handing it to them on a plate. Lobbying politicians to make the necessary changes can only ever be partially successful. In the end, only by getting ourselves elected to the positions where the decisions are made can we start to change direction, towards a society where common sense and common decency prevail. Which is why we call upon all *decent* people to get involved and help get Greens elected at the local elections each May.

Last year about 100 Greens were elected, at town, parish, borough and district level. We held existing seats and won many new ones, and continued to improve our average share of the vote. The success was due to a lot of hard work from too few people. Many local parties have been preparing all year for this May, and we have some very promising candidates. But to make real progress we need to do more than simply repeat last years' welcome, but modest success. Whether a Green Party member or not, participate! Ways and means are outlined on the following page.

### Greentrade

#### Local elections alert

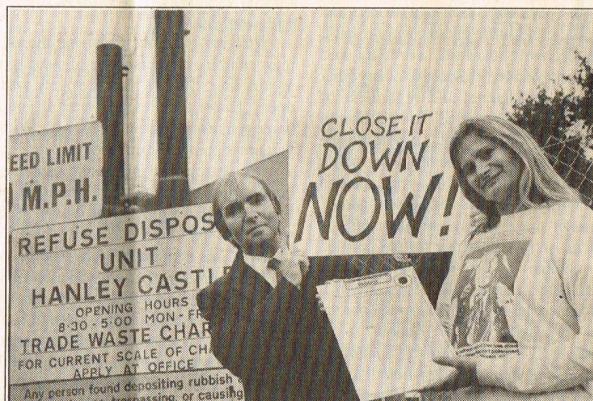
Super cheap printing service for leaflets in green and/or black from your artwork.

Posters, badges, stickers, rosettes, balloons, stationery, leaflets, etc.

Send for latest price list. Place your orders in good time for the May elections.

Greentrade,  
43 Green St,  
Hereford HR1 2QH  
01432 264763

### Ingredients of success



Chris Lennard and Anne Storey-Day (above) were elected to Malvern Hills District Council in May 1995, joining existing Green Councillor Guy Woodford. Their campaign culminated in the closing down of a local incinerator, but had encompassed year-round work on other issues, and the production of a Ward Newsletter. Thorough canvassing (in Chris's case over several elections) was the ultimate key to victory.

### Life on the Council

by Cllr Chris Lennard

I was a wonderful feeling on 4th May last year when Anne Storey-Day and I were elected to Malvern Hills District Council to join Guy Woodford, who, for most of the last 8 years has been the Green Party's lone voice on the Authority.

Although the last 8 months have been a lot of hard work, that feeling remains. We have achieved much in that time.

The arithmetic of the Council (51 members) means that the 21 strong Liberal Democrats have to rely on the 3 Greens, and a handful of Labour and genuine Independents, to carry out their manifesto commitments. They have had to give as well as take.

To be fair to the Malvern Lib Dems, they do have a strong environmental commitment, in particular to Agenda

21. But the Green Party presence has been crucial in pushing through measures which would never have got through the previous council.

Our most important achievement to date has been to secure the Council's corporate commitment to set up an Environmental Management System. The Greens in turn supported the Lib Dems initiative to get public participation at Council meetings.

And when the Council was deciding how to spend the receipts from the sale of its housing stock, we ensured that environmental criteria were used to judge applications; amongst the beneficiaries were cycle paths and tree planting.

Our electoral achievements and media coverage this year have given Malvern Hills Green Party an enhanced credibility. Plans are afoot to build on our success.

## Green Landslide

Greens sweep to power in Town Halls across the country

by John Spottiswoode

*It hasn't happened yet, but the above headline could be made a reality. We can and do win elections, but need many more people taking part, with support from the Green movement.*

Our election strategy emphasises the importance of building up our profile by winning at the local level first, because it is achievable, and also inherently Green as in 'think globally, act locally'. How do we win local elections?

The candidate's profile is crucial. Compelling political messages are no substitute for a visible and well respected candidate. We are not in the position yet where people vote in significant numbers for the party name. Every seat we have won involved hard work on the doorsteps, showing that we are helping people before the election period as much as during it.

The principal message is *canvass, canvass, canvass*. Get out and about in the target ward, deliver a regular newsletter, and run year-round campaigns on issues relevant to the local people. Do things with enthusiasm and commitment. Make the campaign fun and build social links with local greens.

### Political strategy

The big Green Vision may appeal to us but most people are more concerned about day-to-day things like dog poo on the pavements. The Liberal's success was built on 'dog poo politics'. Our winning formula is to apply Green thinking to local issues such as pollution, poor health, housing, education, traffic, recycling, etc. Identify local problems and highlight how Green policies provide the solutions. E.g.:

**Roads** - the measures proposed in the Road Traffic Reduction Bill in place of damaging new road schemes.

**Local economics** - local production for local use, LETS schemes and local banks, that invest locally in positive ways for the benefit of the community. Conserving resources and reducing consumption (highlight our Energy

Conservation Act success). To build strong, stable local communities against the alienated, amoral, crime ridden society that is our current course.

The Green issue is the political challenge of our time. Our distinguishing characteristic is that our policies are based on acknowledging the desperate ecological crisis, and recognising the need for radical economic and social changes.

We must convince people of the

futility of voting tactically between the other parties because they are all so similar in policies. Policies which have failed again and again. Voting grey perpetuates the problems. Every Green vote is a positive vote for a bright future.

John Spottiswoode is Elections Co-ordinator for the Green Party, previously Secretary and Co-Chair of Regional Council, and one time County Councillor for the Labour Party.

### 10 ways to help in Local Elections

There are many tasks to be carried out some requiring little expertise, time or energy, but all vital to a successful outcome. Contact Chris Rose (see below) for your nearest active Local Party.

1. **DELIVER LEAFLETS.** In target wards there will be several leaflet drops planned, starting now building up to polling day in early May.

2. **HELP WITH STREET STALLS,** media stunts and other profile-raising events.

3. **HELP MONITOR THE LOCAL MEDIA** for stories the Party should respond to. Put the Green view across in the letters pages of local papers, and on radio phone-ins.

4. **'BACKROOM' JOBS** - making canvassing cards, entering data, designing/printing leaflets, making poster stakeboards....

5. **DOOR-KNOCKING** - identify Green supporters - seek residents views and promote Green solutions. Canvassing is crucial to success. It may seem daunting at first, but people are friendly and responsive to Greens, and most canvassers quickly find it very enjoyable.

6. **BE A GREEN CANDIDATE.** It is simple to do, costs nothing, and you do not need to be a brilliant speaker or an expert on Green policy. If you choose to be only a paper candidate you need do nothing

more than collect a few signatures, and in so doing help the Party enormously, increasing the Green vote and enhancing the Party's overall credibility by maximising candidate numbers. Remember, to qualify for a TV election broadcast we must contest at least 8% of the seats - every extra candidate helps to meet that target.

7. **POSTERS.** Persuade friends and relatives to display Green Party posters in the run-up to the elections.

8. **DONATE.** If nothing else, make a donation to the local campaign - there is never enough money!

9. **RECRUIT.** Persuade local sympathisers to join up, or just help in the elections.

10. **HAVE FUN.** Local elections are invaluable for meeting local people, promoting Green ideas and challenging the inadequacy of non-Green politics. Achieving a good result is exhilarating. Winning is worth it just to see the looks of disbelief, dismay, and deep concern on the faces of the opposition. They know that when Greens are elected their secrecy-based dominance of local affairs are under threat.

For further details about your local party; how to become a candidate, etc., contact Chris Rose, National Elections Agent, 26 Devonshire Road, Bristol BS6 7NJ Tel: 01179 421481



# Green Party Spring Conference First Agenda

21-25th February 1996 Dover Town Hall, Dover

## INTRODUCTION

This is the short version of the First Agenda for the Green Party Spring Conference of 1995, to be held in Dover on 22-25 February 1996. There are 37 motions and 3 Draft Voting Papers. Three motions submitted were out of order.

Unfortunately we were not able to publish this issue of Green World before the deadline for amendments to the motions, i.e. Thursday 11th January 1996. However, all Local Party Contacts received a full version of the First Agenda well before the deadline, and should have made it available to all interested parties.

Elections will be held for posts to the following committees: Mediation Committee (3 places); Standing Orders Committee (2 places); and Campaigns Committee (5 places). Nominations and candidates statements should be sent to Malcolm Howe at 35 Cricket Road, Oxford, OX4 3DQ, or delivered to him at the Conference, no later than 12pm on the Saturday of Conference (24th February).

Convenor of SOC: Matthew Paterson, 114 Stanier Street, Newcastle under Lyme, Staffs, ST5 2SU. Tel: 0782 620599. E-mail ira13@ir.keele.ac.uk.

## SECTION A

**Repeal of the Standing Orders, Mediation and Policy Committees.**

## SECTION B

### 1. Enabling Motion on

#### Monetary Policy

No synopsis provided. Proposed Mercy Harmer, Brian Leslie, Norman Barraclough, Donald Lowe. Mercy Harmer, Regent House, Church Road, Shelfanger, Diss, Norfolk, IP22 2DG. Tel: 01379 643468.

## SECTION C

### 1. Civil liberties in the home.

Introduces rights for tenants to pursue the lifestyle of their choice in their homes. Proposed Katharine Gilchrist, Julian Edmonds, Garnette Bowler, George Bowler. Julian Edmonds, 40 Hencroft St, Slough, SL1 1RE.

Tel 01753824886.

julian.edmonds@express.gn.apc.org.

### 2. Establishment of an Industrial Impact Commission

No synopsis provided. Proposed Molly Scott, Chris Busby, Hugo Charlton, Julie Williams. Molly Scott, 38 Queen Street, Aberystwyth.

### 3. Restriction of Advertising Aimed at Children

No synopsis provided. Proposed Molly Scott, Chris Busby, Hugo Charlton, Julie Williams. Molly Scott, 38 Queen Street, Aberystwyth.

### 4. Policy on light pollution

No synopsis provided. Proposed Witham and Braintree Green Party. James Abbott, Philip Hughes, Cheryl Gerrard, Susan Ransome. James Abbott, 1 Waterfall Cottages, Park Road, Rivenhall, WITHAM, Essex CM8 3PR. 01376 584576. flipr@cix.compulink.co.uk.

### 5. Policy Motion on Short Term Contracts

The additional sentence is intended to make clear WR332 and to make clear our strong position in respect to the short-termism that is rife in today's labour market.

Proposed NE Area Green Party. Ben Lukey, Dan Alliband, Dave Shepherdson, Liz Crocker. Ben Lukey, 66 Hyde Terrace, South Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1AT. 0191 285 5043.

### 6. Policy Motion on Taxation & Redistribution of Wealth

This is a proposal for a maximum income. It is intended to make it clear that we believe

that Britain cannot afford the rich, and that we are committed to ending the appalling inequitable distribution of wealth.

Proposed NE Area Green Party. Ben Lukey, Dan Alliband, Dave Shepherdson, Liz Crocker. Ben Lukey, 66 Hyde Terrace, South Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1AT. 0191 285 5043.

### 7. Support for Non Violent Direct Action

Proposed: Shane Collins, Terry Liddle, Gary Holden, John Parham. Shane Collins, 73 Brailsford Rd, Brixton SW2 2DR.

### 8. Short term tenancies

As it stands, HO801 in our Housing Policy removes the possibility of short term tenancies. This motion reinstates that option. Proposed Clive Lord, Darren Johnson, Spencer Fitz-Gibbon, Penny Shepherd. Clive Lord, 44 Upper Bailey Low Lane, Bailey, Yorks WF17 0AP 01924 472767.

### 9. Positive content of ideologies

Ensures that the contributions of both spirituality and humanism are respected, in a pluralistic way. Proposed Jim Tidy, Gary Holden, Colin Mills, Terry Liddle. Colin Mills, 70 Chestnut Lane, Amersham Common, Bucks HP6 6EH. Tel 01494 726103.

### 10. Road building

No synopsis provided. Proposed Steve Dawe, Steve Muggeridge, Hazel Dawe, Kathy Moss. Steve Dawe, 4 Uplands, Canterbury, CT2 7BL.

### 11. Stop Sale of Dover Port

This Conference is opposed to the sale of the Port of Dover.

Proposed Steve Dawe, Steve Muggeridge, Hazel Dawe, Kathy Moss. Steve Dawe, 4 Uplands, Canterbury, CT2 7BL.

### 12. National Lottery

No synopsis provided. Proposed Daniel James, Martha Brett, Graham Woodland, Jenni Chan. Daniel Howard James, 115 Greyhound Rd, London N17 6XR.

## SECTION D

### 1. Constitutional Review Group

This motion creates a short-term Constitutional Review Group. Proposed: Alan Francis, Janet Alty, John Laker, Jon Carpenter. Lindy Brett, 32 Blakelow Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 7ED.

### 2. Rule out joint candidates

The Constitution to specifically rule out joint candidates. Proposed: Judy Filmore, Clive Lord, Huge Charlton, Chris Busby. Lindy Brett, 32 Blakelow Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 7ED.

### 3. Constitution to allow joint candidates

The Constitution should allow joint candidates under certain circumstances.

Proposed: Judy Filmore, Alan Francis, Clive Lord, Bruce Bingham. Lindy Brett, 32 Blakelow Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 7ED.

### 4. Records of Conference Workshops

Conference workshops debating voting Papers and Draft Voting Papers should submit formal records of numbers and debate to SOC and Policy Committee. Those debating Voting Papers should be subject to a quorum and two thirds voting, so that small numbers do not unduly influence the plenary debate.

Proposed: Judy Filmore, Bruce Bingham, Brian Candeland, Anna Norman. Lindy Brett, 32 Blakelow Road, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 7ED.

### 5. Conference timetable

To make standing orders more flexible by allowing Conference to return to a section before having started all the others.

Proposed: Policy Committee: Martha Brett, Joe Otten, Paul Thomas, Spencer Fitz-Gibbon. Joe Otten, 23 Ramsey Road, Crookes, Sheffield, S10 1LR. Tel 0114 2660923.

### 6. Motion to amend Standing Orders for Conduct of Conference

Shortens conference agenda deadlines by two weeks, to provide more time for members to prepare their proposals for conference.

Proposed Policy Committee. Martha Brett, Paul Thomas, Jenni Chan, Spencer Fitz-Gibbon, Joe Otten, 23 Ramsey Road, Crookes, Sheffield S10 1LR 0114 2660923.

### 7. Proposals for a change to Agenda Procedures to allow more time for submission of motions

To change Standing orders to i) delay the deadline for receipt of motions by 6 weeks; ii) empower drafting workshops to make uncontroversial improvements to proposals at conference; iii) allow acceptance or withdrawal of amendments by consensus before the plenary; iv) introduce safeguards against a workshop unduly influencing plenary debate.

Proposed SOC. Matthew Paterson, Roger Noble, John Street, Lindy Brett, Joe Otten, 23 Ramsey Road, Sheffield S10 1LR. Tel 0114 2660923.

### 8. Relationship between GPCR and Mediation Committee

This Motion clarifies the relationship between Regional Council and the Mediation Committee (Section 13 of the Constitution) in questions of membership.

Proposed Janet Alty, Penny Walker, John Bradley, Sue Bradley. Janet Alty 18 Lillingford Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 5YY. Tel 01926 427773 email janetalty@gn.apc.org

### 9. Citizenship and Racism in Europe

Inserts in the agreed Action Plan for the IGC on the future of the European Union proposals to promote anti-racism, to seek consensus on a right to local, regional and national citizenship based on residence, and to oppose an EU migration policy as less flexible than national policies.

Proposed John Norris, Sue Miles, John Morrissey, Penny Shepherd. Sue Miles, 3 Copse Cottages, Shillingford Road, Wallingford OX10 8LQ. e-mail <smiles@vax.ox.ac.uk>.

### 10. EU to sign European Convention on Human Rights

Our agreed Action Plan leading to the IGC on the future of the European Union proposes that the EU should adopt a charter of basic human and civil rights. This motion therefore proposes that the EU should sign the European Convention on Human Rights, though not as a state. Proposed Hazel Dawe, Steve Dawe, Susan Tibbles, Sue Miles. H Dawe, 4 Uplands, Canterbury CT2 7BL 01227 472771

### 11. Removing conflicts between rotation and ex-officio duties

Ensures elected party officers can carry out their ex-officio duties on other bodies without being barred by previous service, by amending the rotation rule to allow this.

Proposed Jenni Chan, John Norris, John Morrissey, Susan Miles. John Norris, 5 Beaumont Avenue, Richmond upon Thames, Surrey TW9 2HE <john.norris@express.gn.apc.org>.

### 12. Green World Suggested replacement for Constitution Para 11

The suggested replacement (together with the proposed Standing Orders) seeks to clarify the role and function of the Editorial Board and the accountability to the Green Party of the Editor (or editorial team) and any other Officers appointed by the Editorial Board.

Proposed Janet Alty, Peter Barnett, Jon Carpenter, Paul Anderson. Janet Alty, 18 Lillingford Road, Leamington Spa, CV32 5YY. Tel 01926 427773.

### 13. Organisational Motion on Campaigning on Wealth and Poverty

This motion arises out of the clear need to ensure that the public know that the Green Party is the party of social concern as well as that of the environment.

Proposed NE Area Green Party. Ben Lukey, Dan Alliband, Dave Shepherdson, Liz Crocker. Ben Lukey, 66 Hyde Terrace, South Gosforth, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE3 1AT. 0191 285 5043.

### 14. David Icke and anti-Semitism

Highlights David Icke's use of anti-Semitic material, and expresses concern that his name remains linked to the Party. Urges that the Party reaffirm commitment to anti-racism, seek to dissociate ourselves from Icke's

views, and boycott venues whose run by people sympathetic to him. Proposed Jenni Chan, Derek Wall, Ian Coates, Daniel James. Larry O'Hara, BM BOX 4769, London WC1N 3XX.

### 15. Cynog Dafis

No synopsis provided. Proposed Owen Clarke, Brian Kingzett, Sheila Edward, Roger Coghill. Owen Clarke, 11 Penwyn Heights, Aberystwyth, Pontypool, Gwent NP4 7TN. tel 01495 773175

### 16. Topical and emergency motions.

This motions removes the distinction between topical and emergency motions, and relaxes the conditions that such motions must meet.

Proposed SOC. Matthew Paterson, Roger Noble, John Street, Lindy Brett. Matthew Paterson, 114 Stanier Street, Newcastle under Lyme, ST5 2SU. Tel 01782 620599.

### 17. Fundraising

No synopsis provided. Motion and amendment Proposed Alex Begg, M. Mullany, Sarah Guy, Alan Paxton. Alex Begg, 16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds LS7 3HB. 0113 262 9365. email cornerstone@gn.apc.org

### 18. Green Party Publications

This Conference believes many local parties would like a uniform style for 'national' Green Party publications. This would allow them to design their own materials to match, would give a professional appearance to stalls and would increase the impact of individual publications. This would not in any way prevent individuals, policy groups and local parties from producing materials in a different style if they so wished.

Proposed Alex Begg, M. Mullany, Sarah Guy, Alan Paxton. Alex Begg, 16 Sholebroke Ave, Leeds LS7 3HB. 0113 262 9365 cornerstone@gn.apc.org

## OUT OF ORDER MOTIONS

### a. Appropriate name for GPCR

Green Party Regional Council is a council of representatives of all the areas (regions) of Green Party of England and Wales. But, the Council's name is suited to a body operating solely within a single region, e.g. the Regional Council

of South East England. The correct name for GPCR should therefore be Green Party Council of Regions (GPCR).

Proposed Pete West, Joan Timms, Johnny Denis, Geraldine Keenan. Pete West, Tivoli House, 1 Tivoli Crescent, Brighton, BN1 5NB. Tel 01273 559440.

(SOCC C9(e) - trivial)

### b. Elect a charismatic leader

We have a National Party contesting National Elections with no National Profile and no National leader. By following this path we have continued our decline into National oblivion. A National charismatic leader would give a focus for the electorate, the local Green Parties and the media.

Proposed Tony Slade, Jane Scott, Molly Davies, John Forbes. Tony Slade, Striae, Beading's Road, Martlesham, Suffolk, IP12 4RW. (SOCC C9(d), (e) - vague, requiring no consequential action)

### c. Card votes

The motion starts by observing that the card vote caused a change in the electorate during the conduct of the Europe vote at the last Conference. It proposed that SOC take soundings with a view to proposing Standing Orders changes to abolish the card vote.

Proposed Mark Hill, Helen Nightingale, Steve Kenwright, Mark Nicholson. Mark Hill, 14 Holly Terrace, Ambrose Street, York YO1 4DS. 01904 672489. (SOCC C9(c) - ambiguous)

## DRAFT VOTING PAPERS

### MARINE POLICY DRAFT VOTING PAPER

Looks at all aspects of Marine environment and shipping and nuclear issues and has analysis and long term policies for a greener sea.

Proposed the Marine Policy Group. Fred Gibson, 513 Mawney Road, Romford, Essex RM7 8QA. Tel: 01708 723268.

### INDUSTRY DRAFT VOTING PAPER

No synopsis provided. Douglas Earl, Flat 2, 74-77 Chalk Farm Road, London, NW1 8AN

### BUILT ENVIRONMENT DRAFT VOTING PAPER

No Synopsis provided. Daniel James, 115 Greyhound Road, London N17 6XR.









Green Party

# Spring Conference

## Dover Town Hall, Dover

21st-25th February 1996

*We warmly welcome other organisations and individuals  
Let's network together for a brighter, greener future*

Job Seekers Allowance  
animal rights  
anti-roads  
health  
nuclear arms  
Criminal Justice Act



non violent direct action  
local elections training  
democracy and PR  
human rights  
ecological rights  
development & trade

**healing, crafts, videos, bands workshops, debates, receptions**

*If your organisation would like to participate, either by speaking on a platform, or organising a workshop or fringe meeting, please contact Miriam Kennet (see below)*

*If your organisation would like to have a stall (from only £10) or display a poster in the hall, please contact Robert Daus on 0181 449 8625*

### CONFERENCE FEES - Daily rate

Your yearly income level	If booked before 13.2.96			Booked at Conference		
	Thu/Fri/Sat	Sun	All in	Thu/Fri/Sat	Sun	All in
under £10,000	5	3	15	6	3	20
£10K - 14,999	8	6	24	9	7	29
£15K - 19,999	12	9	36	14	10	43
£20K - 29,999	16	12	48	18	14	56
£30K - 39,999	20	15	60	23	17	71
over £40,000	25	19	75	29	22	89

### Volunteers

If you would like to help please contact the relevant organiser below

CONFERENCE CO-ORDINATOR Miriam Kennet, 20 Arlow Road,  
London N21 3JU 0181 882 0955

CHAIRING Jenny Jones 0171 701 0055

WELCOME ON THE DOOR TEAM Jill Harvey 0121 453 5838

PRESS OFFICE and NVDA Penny Kemp 01622 890601

CRECHE Sue Bradley, 40 Holcombe Green, Bath BA2 4JA 01225 428929

ENTERTAINMENT AND LOCAL TEAM Steve Mugeridge 01622 613413

FRINGE MEETINGS Louis Lawrence 01983 855297

POLICY Martha Brett 0181 801 5677

### Accommodation

Floor space at £3 per night in the Dover YMCA, only 5 minutes walk from Conference. Includes free mattress, bring your own sleeping bag. Please use this form to book. Alternative accommodation needs to be arranged by you. Information available on request.

### Creche facilities

Creche provided for Green Party member's only. Places limited to 20 children only and must be booked and paid for in advance by 13th February, with refundable deposit of £2.50 per day/per child. Details of local nurseries and childminders available if you miss out on the creche.

### BOOKING FORM

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Postcode \_\_\_\_\_  
Tel (home) \_\_\_\_\_ (work) \_\_\_\_\_ Local Party \_\_\_\_\_

### Days attending and fees payable (see left)

Wednesday (from 6pm)	YMCA floor	YES/NO
Thursday	£ _____	YMCA floor YES/NO
Friday	£ _____	YMCA floor YES/NO
Saturday	£ _____	YMCA floor YES/NO
Sunday	£ _____	
Floorspace	£ _____	£3 per night
Creche deposit	£ _____	£2.50 per child per day returnable
TOTAL	£ _____	

Cheque made payable to The Green Party enclosed YES/NO

### Car sharing:

- ☐ I can offer \_\_\_\_\_ spaces in my car to/from Conference  
☐ I would like a lift to/from Conference and will help with the cost

Attendance status: ☐ Local Party rep ☐ Member  
☐ Non-member ☐ Organisation

I require the following information: ☐ 2nd Agenda

Accommodation lists of: ☐ Guest house/hotels ☐ Self catering  
☐ Caravan/camping ☐ Camping

Send this form with your cheque made payable to **The Green Party to:**  
**Jill Harvey, 36 Rosehill, Rednal, Birmingham B45 8RR**

Tel: 0121 453 5838